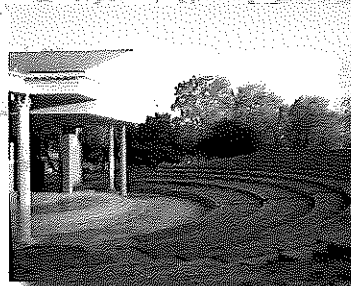


2014-2018
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN
CITY OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

November 27th, 2013



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2014-2018

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

CITY OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

2014-2018

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

City of Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department

PREPARED FOR:



Terre Haute Parks and Recreation

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INTRODUCTION



introduction

PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

In 2008, the City embarked on its most extensive parks planning process in years. The resulting 2009-2013 Parks Master Plan represented a long term vision for what the parks were to become and how they were to be managed. The theme of that plan was the value of parks, and the need to take care of the tremendous asset the parks are for Terre Haute.

As the community worked to implement that plan, they encountered a major roadblock in the form of budget reductions. Since 2009, the annual parks operating budget has been reduced from \$3.4 to \$2.6 million – which is a 25 percent reduction.

The effects of budget reductions have been felt throughout the Department. Staffing levels were cut, retiring maintenance workers were not replaced, major maintenance has been deferred, projects were delayed and programming was cut.

The 2009-2013 plan did start to prepare the department for these changes. Anticipating lean years due to the economic downturn, a major emphasis was on taking care of what Terre Haute already has. But, that same plan also set idealistic goals to implementing equipment obsolescence plans and getting caught up on deferred major maintenance. Those goals simply were not possible with the budget constraints.

As the City now looks ahead to the 2014-2018 Parks Master Plan, the budget cuts have stabilized and the department is starting to move forward incrementally.

As the department looked back over the previous plan, leaders restated their commitment to the long term vision and goals established by that plan. Others repeated that the intent of the next five years is to work on the vision from the previous plan.

Still, the budget cuts did dampen everyone's expectations for what the department can do. As a

result, the primary goal for this plan is again to take care of what the city already has.

However, it is also recognized that the department must do more than tread water in the next five years. Action is overdue on many critical issues. Deferred maintenance must be addressed. Golf operations need investment. Aquatics facilities are aging rapidly. The trails are not so new anymore and need work. Strong park leadership will be required to find solutions to address these needs over the course of this plan.

PLAN METHODOLOGY

The target geographic area for this plan is the corporate limits of the city of Terre Haute. It is recognized, however, that Terre Haute serves as a regional draw and that there is a set of park users who lie outside the corporate limits. While it is a long term goal to address impacts from outside users who don't financially contribute to the park system, it is not an immediate priority for this plan. Vigo County has a strong parks system which helps serve the population outside of the corporate limits and reduce strain on the City's park system.

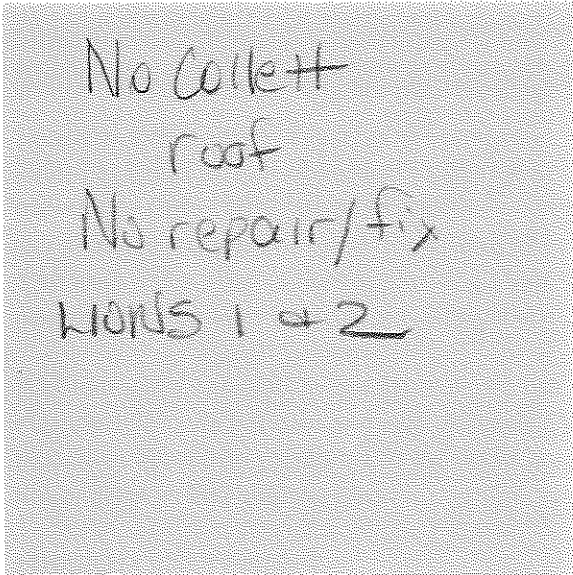
Efforts to begin this plan first began with soliciting public input. This started with stakeholder meetings with community leaders to discuss how the parks are used, and how various users can better be served by the parks.

Input from the general public was sought through public meetings and through a community wide survey. Input was recorded and compared to information received by staff and stakeholders.

Next, multiple meetings were held with key staff members of the parks department to understand how the parks can better enhance their value to the local community. Specific issues and opportunities were discussed and noted.

introduction

MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS



The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department strives to preserve, protect, and enhance Terre Haute's heritage, character, and quality of life by effectively providing the community and visitors diverse leisure time opportunities, parks, trails, and facilities.

"The City of Terre Haute is known for its fine people, public concerns, historical value and the quality of service provided to all citizens. The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department plays an important role in this community as thousands of adults and children visit and use City parks every year. We strive to provide quality recreational opportunities to individuals of all abilities. Each year, the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department experiences growth as it strives to meet increased demands and needs."

PLAN GOALS

The following is a summary of the primary goals and objectives for the 2014-2018 plan. This is not meant to be inclusive of everything that will occur in the parks in this time frame. Instead, it is intended as an overview of department priorities.

1. **Maintenance and Budget:** Cuts have reduced the parks budget by 25 percent in the last four years alone. Protecting and rebuilding the budget is essential to continuing to provide well-maintained facilities and programming. Accordingly, upgrade and replacement of existing, well used facilities will take

precedence over expansion and growth. To make this a priority, we will develop and annually update a capital improvements plan. This plan will outline needed improvements, costs, and revenue sources.

2. **Golf:** Golf operations need to generate enough revenue to pay for itself by the end of 2017. To accomplish this goal, the City will support golf operations with a golf oversight committee, an improved point of sale system, course upgrades and updates to maintenance equipment.
3. **Parks Foundation:** A parks foundation will be established to create a long term revenue source for the department. Our first step will be to appoint a person to chair the committee. We will establish policies for how we will raise funds for the department through various sponsorships and fundraising campaigns.
4. **Aquatics:** A long term aquatics plan for the community will be developed in the course of this plan. As the first phase of the project, multiple splash pads will be built in the city. The plan will also identify the long term strategy for the eventual replacement of the Deming Park pool.
5. **Underutilized Parks:** Elimination of underutilized park facilities will continue to be considered. We will establish criteria for the potential elimination of parks, and then strategically assess the underutilized facilities to determine candidates. Protecting recreation opportunities for minority and low-to-moderate income neighborhoods must remain a priority as elimination of parks is considered.
6. **Trails:** Our trails system has become an outstanding and well-used community asset. However, some trails are over 10 years old and now require regular maintenance. The parks department will develop and implement a plan for annual pavement maintenance and selective replacement. We will continue to finish the original trails master plan, with a focus on filling gaps in trails, and making connections to parks and other destinations.



THE COMMUNITY



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COMMUNITY HISTORY

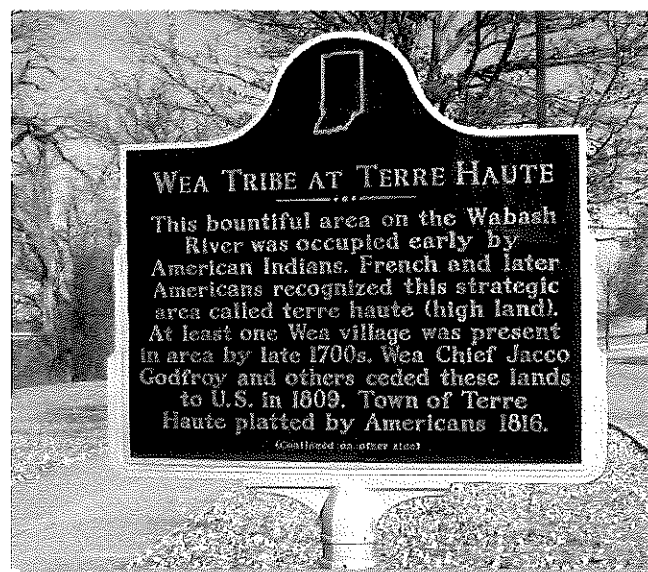
COMMUNITY HISTORY

Vigo County was organized in 1816 from a portion of Sullivan County. The area was named after Colonel Francis Vigo, an Italian tradesman and Colonel who assisted George Rogers Clark during the Revolutionary War. Terre Haute, which is French for "high land" was appropriately named by French traders using the Wabash River Valley for travel during the 1700's.

The first documented settlement in Terre Haute was in 1802 by the Ouiatanon Indians, a member of the Wea Tribe, which had been present in the Wabash River Valley since 1695. This settlement near Terre Haute was the Wea's primary village until October 2nd, 1818, when a treaty was signed to remove all Indian settlements from Indiana. General William Henry Harrison encountered this settlement during his travels up the Wabash River in 1811. His troops built Fort Harrison two miles north of the tribe's location.

Terre Haute became the official county seat in 1818, was incorporated as a town in 1832, and incorporated as a City 21 years later. This area was a major trade center through the 19th Century. Ports along the Wabash allowed steamboats to dock, the extension of the National Road during the early 1930's provided access by horse and wagon and acted as the gateway to the west. The Wabash and Erie Canal reached this area in 1849, and railroads came through in 1852.

The Civil War was the turning point for Terre Haute, combining an agricultural-based economy with an industrial-based economy. The discovery of coal in Clay County initiated the development of iron furnaces, foundries and rolling mills in the region. By 1870, Vigo County became the third largest coal producer and the fifth largest iron manufacturer in the state. This era was short-lived, however, as the ore in the area was inferior to other mines in Lake County and other Midwestern states. By the turn



of the century, agriculture once again became the economic staple of the area.

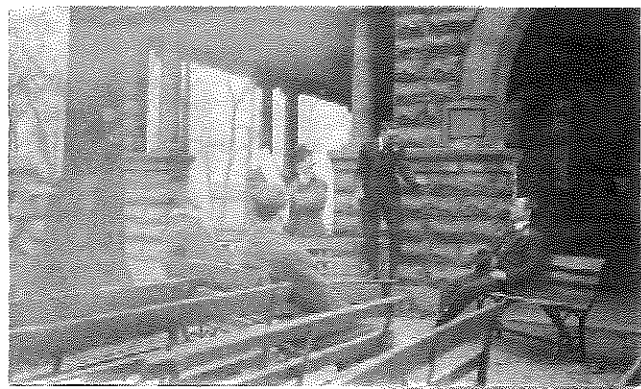
From the mid to late 1800's, corn became Terre Haute's most valuable commodity for the making of alcohol and food items. By 1880, the city was the nation's fifth largest import center of flour and other grist mill products, as well as in the production of distilled liquor.

The economic base of the City was put to a stand-still following World War I. Prohibition closed the distilleries and bottle manufacturing plants, coal mining operations were reduced and mechanized, and the Pennsylvania Railroad repair shops were closed. Additionally, severe labor-management issues were a constant source of conflict, producing an environment susceptible to regular strikes and violence.

Terre Haute's economy greatly benefited from World War II. During the war, Terre Haute provided peacetime goods and supplied labor to the nearby plants. It was also one of the largest recruitment centers of women serving in the navy. Despite this, high unemployment rates, an unstable local economy, decreases in overall population, and bad press continued to plague the city through the early 1970's.

The 1970's brought manufacturing and one of the state's lowest unemployment rates to the city. This boom, however, was short-lived. During the early 1980's, Columbia Records, Terre Haute's largest employer, closed its doors, ISU enrollment dropped, labor-management disputes escalated, historic downtown buildings were demolished, and the population continued to decrease.

Grow Terre Haute, an organization of City officials and community leaders, was established to stabilize the City's volatile economy. By the mid 1980's, new high-tech plants, construction at Rose-Hulman and ISU, improved traffic circulation, downtown development, and recognition on the National Register of Historic Places all contributed to bettering the community.



TRANSPORTATION

Nick-named the "Crossroads of America", Terre Haute has been a regional transportation hub since the 1850's. Today, I-70 borders the southern edge of the city equidistant between I-65 and I-57. U.S. Highways that traverse the area include U.S. 40, U.S. 41 and U.S. 150.

CSX and Indiana Railroad both have rails that go through Terre Haute. At one time, these rail lines interfered with local transportation routes; however, in the 1980's many of these conflicts were resolved with bridge construction. CSX maintains a bulk transfer site in Terre Haute.

Terre Haute International Airport provides military, commercial, corporate, private, and government transportation service for the region. The area surrounding the airport has been designated by the Indiana General Assembly as an Airport Development Zone to encourage development and growth.

EDUCATION

Terre Haute is home to five colleges and universities, giving many parts of the City a "college town" atmosphere. Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and St. Mary of the Woods College are four-year institutions that provide both undergraduate and graduate level degrees. These universities provide Terre Haute with unique cultural experiences, including art galleries, observatories, and preserved natural areas. Each campus adds to the beauty of Terre Haute, as well as generating visitors, tourism and economic development for the area.

Ivy Tech Community College and Indiana Business College offer small class sizes, flexible schedules, on-line courses, and focused instruction for students earning Bachelors and Associates degrees, as well as transferable credit hours. These education centers do not offer a typical college campus setting with dorms and dining halls; however, a constant flow of students and professors provides economic stimulus to these areas of Terre Haute.



the community

COMMUNITY FEATURES

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

There are currently 45 structures on the National Register of Historic Places. Incentives at the local, state, and federal level are available to building owners to ensure these structures retain their historic qualities through renovations and upkeep. Several older buildings have been demolished since the 1950's, but historic structures like the Collett Park Pavilion remain. Terre Haute Landmarks, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that identifies historic landmarks, offers assistance to owners, protects historic elements from demolition, and presents awards for renovations.

NATURAL FEATURES

The Wabash River, which forms the western boundary of the City, is the most prominent natural feature within Terre Haute. The Wabash has been used for hundreds of years to travel across Indiana, as it travels through 16 counties and drains more than 60 counties on its way to the Ohio River—more than 75 percent of the state.

Terre Haute was named after its relationship to the Wabash River. French for “high land”, this rise above the river was a rolling plateau. The topography includes the broad Wabash River Valley, rolling uplands immediately east of the river corridor, and moderately rolling farmland in the surrounding area.

Vigo County was the southern limit of the advance of glacial ice during two major glacial ice ages. The soils throughout this area are a combination of silts deposited by the winds along the ice front; glacial outwash soils, glacial till soils compacted under the heavy ice weight, sand dunes, and soft glacial lake deposits. The first settlers drained many of the ample wetlands and morasses they found to reveal these varied soil types which were ideal for a variety of agricultural production.

Today, the parks system helps to highlight and protect the natural environment found in and around the City,

though it is a secondary goal of this plan. Parks such as Dobbs Nature Park and Maple Avenue Nature park actively promote and engage users with nature. Other large parks such as Deming, Rea, and Hulman Links help to preserve large woodlots. Fairbanks Park plays a critical role in keeping people connected to the Wabash River. Trails, greenways, and boulevards through the city help to create corridors of life through the City.

Vigo County parks, which surround the City, has a heavier focus on protecting and preserving natural features while the Terre Haute park system has a heavier focus on recreational opportunities. These two park systems working in tandem help to create a well rounded exposure to all the benefits a park system can offer to its users.



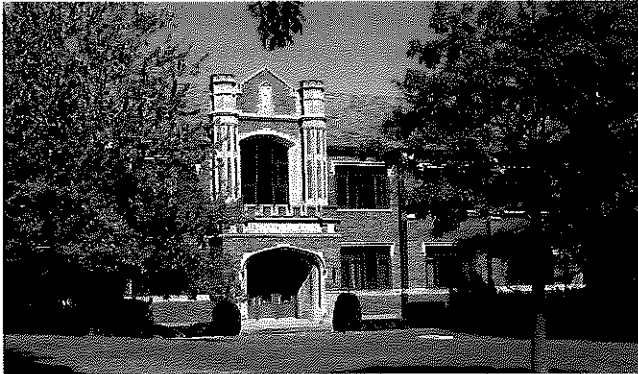
Wetland Area near Maple Avenue Nature Park



Wabash River along Fairbanks Park

the community

COMMUNITY FEATURES



Rose Hulman - Moench Hall

Source: www.rose-hulman.edu



Indiana Theater

Source: C. Bedford Crenshaw



Terre Haute Children's Museum

Source: www.razoo.com

CULTURAL FEATURES

Terre Haute has a wealth of museums, music and theater groups, and historically significant homes and businesses open for tours. These groups and attractions offer significant cultural diversity for a small city, and are listed below.

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

- Oakley Observatory
- Hatfield Hall

Indiana State University

- Hook Observatory
- University Art Gallery

St. Mary of the Woods

- Providence Center at St. Mary of the Woods
- St. Mary of the Woods Art Gallery
- White Violet Center for Eco-Justice

Art Groups and Galleries

- Art Spaces
- Arts Illiana, Inc.
- Sheldon Swope Art Museum
- The Halcyon Contemporary Art Gallery
- Titzer Art Studios and Back Gallery

Music and Theater

- Community Theater of Terre Haute
- Sweet Harmony Women's Barbershop Chorus
- Terre Haute Children's Choir
- Terre Haute Community Band
- Terre Haute Masterworks Choral
- Terre Haute Sinfonietta Pops Orchestra
- Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra

Museums and Attractions

- C.A.N.D.L.E.S Holocaust Museum and Education Center
- Children's Science and Technology Museum
- Clabber Girl Museum and Country Store
- Eugene V. Debs House Museum
- Fire-Police Museum
- Veterans Museum
- Fowler Park Pioneer Village (Vigo County Park)
- Dobbs Park Nature Center
- Kleptz Antique Auto Museum



the community

COMMUNITY FEATURES

- Native American Museum – Dobbs Park
- Paul Dresser Memorial Birthplace
- Terre Haute Brewing Company
- Vigo County Historic Museum
- Wabash Valley Railroaders Museum

VIGO COUNTY PARKS

The Vigo County Parks Department manages over 1,868 acres of recreation land with 141 acres of water recreation. Many activities are organized throughout the year that take advantage of the natural setting of their parks, including hay rides, maple syrup gathering, Christmas light displays, a triathlon race, and pioneer days. Throughout the year, camping, swimming, boating, and hiking are available within the parks, as well. The Vigo County Parks Department works with the Terre Haute Parks Department on a regular basis.

Private Recreation Providers

- Country Club of Terre Haute
- Elks Country Club *handing*
- Happiness Bag, Inc.
- Wabash Valley Family Sports
- *Curves* Planet Fitness
- Anytime Fitness

Parent/Church Organized

- Terre Town Baseball
- Terre Haute South L
- Terre Haute Church Softball
- Terre Haute Miss So
- Vigo County Youth S

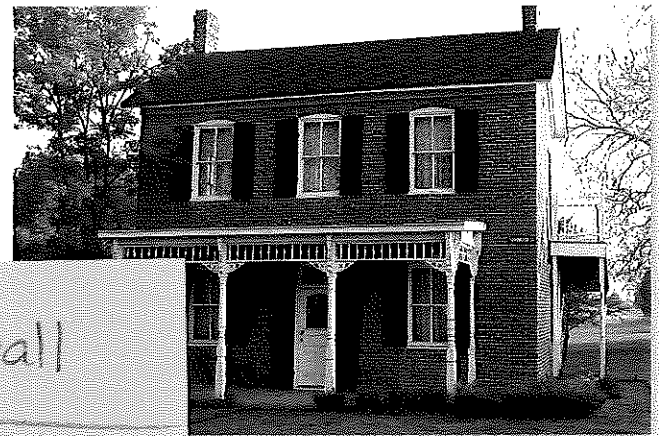
INTEGRATION WITH

It is a desire of the parks department to develop partnerships with cultural institutions and organizations in order to increase the vitality of Terre Haute as a whole. The department works with organizations, such as the Wabash Valley Railroaders Museum, which helps to place high quality sculptures

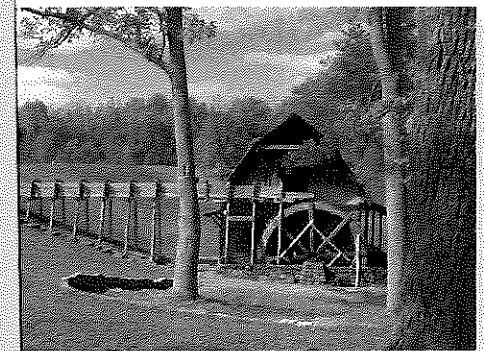
throughout the city and in city parks, is vital to elevating the parks visibility and use within the community.

These partnerships also help the parks department to sponsor many popular events in the city including the Banks of the Wabash Festival, Old Fashion Day, Independence Day Celebration, Annual Memorial 5k Run, Haunted and Un-Haunted Halloween Happenings, Fairbanks Community Band Concerts and Christmas in the Park.

Several goals listed later in this document directly relate to working with other organizations including: Partnering with local schools, universities, and media outlets; Educating stakeholders and the public on the value of parks; Developing park-oriented promotional materials to assist in economic development initiatives; and Supporting riverfront development initiatives.



Paul Dresser Memorial Birthplace



Fowler Park
Source: www.vigocounty.in.gov

PAST POPULATION TRENDS

Terre Haute reached its largest population in the 1960's with 72,500 residents. Over the past forty years, the population has decreased by nearly 18 percent, with the greatest decreases occurring between the 1970 census and 1980 census (-13.1 percent). However, this decrease was prompted by activities that occurred thirty years earlier.

Between 1940 and 1961, Terre Haute had one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, despite the building of several new factories, including Pfizer Chemical, Allis- Chalmers, Columbia Records, and Anaconda Aluminum. During this time, more than 6,000 manufacturing jobs were lost. Population increases from the 1960 Census were a result of annexation, not prosperity and economic growth.

During the 1960's, Terre Haute's downtown continued to decline both financially and physically when a series of explosions and fires in abandoned and dilapidated buildings occurred. Many residents and merchants moved from the downtown area into suburbs and outlying shopping centers. The late 1960's and early 1970's brought some stability and urban renewal to Terre Haute as Indiana State University (ISU) doubled its student population and the Fort Harrison Industrial Park was developed. By 1973, Terre Haute boasted one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, despite the recession.

The 1980 Census indicated an extreme decrease in Terre Haute's population, despite increased economic development. The decrease was caused by many factors, including a high attrition rate of an aging population, a decrease in attendance at ISU, cutbacks by the City's largest employers, and the relocation of employees and jobs from the Fort Harrison Industrial Park.

Economic troubles continued to plague Terre Haute during the early 1980's. Unemployment soared to 15.5 percent in 1983 as plant closings, droughts, real estate

slumps, and inflation continued to rise. The effects were increased crime, demolition of historic downtown structures, and escalating labor-management disputes. One positive addition to Terre Haute was the Digital Audio Disc Corporation (DADC). This high-tech manufacturing plant, along with new stores and factories, helped turn Terre Haute's economy around in just three short years. By 1986, employment at the DADC plant had tripled and new building and transportation construction occurred throughout the city.

Once again, economic stability, as well as community pride, had returned to Terre Haute. These factors helped to stabilize the population, which continued to decrease between 1980 and 1990, but at a much reduced 6 percent. The 2000 Census indicated an increase in Terre Haute's population to nearly 60,000 residents, or nearly a 4 percent increase from 1990.

CURRENT POPULATION TRENDS

The 2010 Census population of Terre Haute was 60,785. An estimate was completed in 2011 that indicated the total population of the city had increased slightly to 60,961. The growth in population reverses previous trends of decreasing population. This population represents approximately 56 percent of the county population. Vigo County's population of 107,848 (2010 Census) is comprised of 76 percent urban (82,225) and 24 percent rural (25,623) residents. Other communities within Vigo County include the following:

West Terre Haute:	2,236
Seelyville:	1,029
Riley:	221

*Source: 2010 Census



the community

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The median age for Terre Haute, according to the 2010 census, is 32.7 years, with 21 percent of the population under the age of 18. The largest group is between the ages of 20 to 24. This number coincides with the five secondary education centers found within the city. Residents over the age of 65 make up approximately 13 percent of the population.

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

83.5 percent of Terre Haute's population is White, nearly 11 percent is Black or African American, and approximately 3 percent is Hispanic, which accounts for 77.5 percent of Terre Haute's population. Other ethnic groups represented include American Indian, Asian and Pacific Islander.

ECONOMICS

The median family income in Terre Haute is \$42,606, while the average family income is \$55,852. These amounts significantly decrease for households with no husband present or non-family households. Approximately 42 percent of families with only a female parent or guardian present earn less than the federal poverty level in 2010. The federal poverty level in 2010 for a family of 3 was \$18,310 and \$22,050 for a family of 4. This means approximately 18 percent of the City's families are living below the federal poverty line.

APPLICATION

The parks system plays a vital role in helping provide services and improving the quality of life to residents who may not be able to afford or access other recreational opportunities. As such, the parks department must be extremely sensitive and knowledgeable of the communities served by the parks system, especially when it comes to decisions regarding improvements or managing underutilized properties.

As mentioned in the plan goals at the beginning of the

document, protection of recreation opportunities for minority and low-to-moderate income neighborhoods must remain a priority as elimination of underutilized park spaces is considered. Any action must analyze the benefit to be gained by elimination against the benefit provided to the local community.

The parks system also plays an important role in providing recreational opportunities for those in the population who report a disability. In Terre Haute, nearly 16% of the population reports having a disability. As such, progress needs to continue towards updating playgrounds, pathways, and other amenity areas to be universally accessible. Progress has been made in this area with examples such as Oakley Playround, updating pathways to shelters and picnic tables, and through educational opportunities presented through the Nature Center, Torner Center and the Native American Museum.

Population Distribution

	Number	Percent
Total Population	60,785	100
Male	31,392	51.6
Female	29,393	48.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Income

Subject	Households	Error
Total	21,714	+/- 643
Median income (dollars)	32,184	+/- 1,776
Mean income (dollars)	44,796	+/- 2,431

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Employment Status

Age	Total	In Labor Force	Error	Employed	Error
16-older	49,582	26,888	+/- 736	24,194	+/- 729

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Disability		
Age	Number	Error
Under 5	13	+/- 22
5 to 17	1,245	+/- 497
18 to 64	5,340	+/- 626
65 and over	3,226	+/- 362
Total	9,824	+/- 843

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Owner Occupied Housing Comparison		
Type	Number	Error
Housing Units with a mortgage	8,303	+/- 390
Housing Units without a mortgage	4,409	+/- 37
Total	12,712	+/- 435

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Education (Population over 25 years of age)		
Level	Number	% of Pop.
Less than 9th grade	1,493	+/- 250
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	4,991	+/- 485
High school graduate	12,463	+/- 628
Some college, no degree	8,581	+/- 516
Associate's degree	2,637	+/- 322
Bachelor's degree	4,019	+/- 405
Graduate or professional degree	3,060	+/- 320
Total	37,244	+/- 549

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

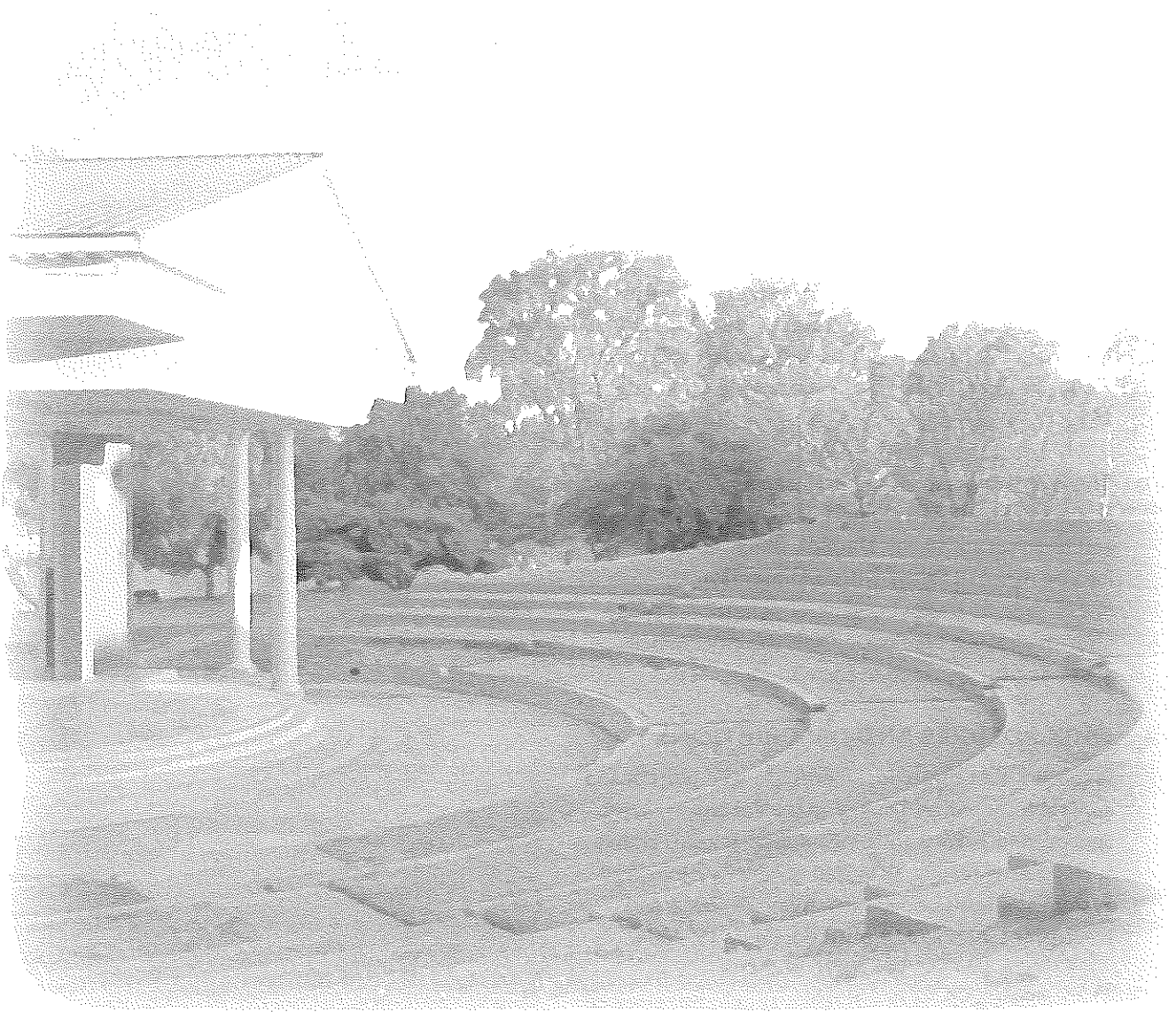
Age Distribution		
	Number	Percent
Under 5	3,620	6.0
5-9 years	3,327	5.5
10-14 years	3,200	5.3
15-19 years	5,197	8.5
20-24 years	7,882	13.0
25-29 years	4,826	7.9
30-34 years	4,073	6.7
35-39 years	3,671	6.0
40-44 years	3,517	5.8
45-49 years	3,670	6.0
50-54 years	3,884	6.4
55-59 years	3,486	5.7
60-64 years	2,759	4.5
65-69 years	2,036	3.3
70-74 years	1,604	2.6
75-79 years	1,311	2.2
80-84 years	1,313	2.2
85 and over	1,409	2.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Race and Ethnicity		
	Number	Percent
White	50,750	83.5
Black or African American	6,644	10.9
American Indian and Alaska Native	259	.4
Asian	879	1.4
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	26	.1
Some Other Race	467	.8
Two or More Races	1,760	2.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

THE PARKS DEPARTMENT



the parks department

MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT

Management of the Terre Haute Parks Department is set up in a structure that starts with the Mayor of Terre Haute, to the Park Board which has four members and then down to the Park Superintendent. The Superintendent interacts directly with the Mayor, the Park Board and all of the other key personnel from the Recreation Coordinators, Park Managers, Director of Maintenance, Curator, Naturalist, Golf Superintendent and to all the related employees under the aforementioned.

The Terre Haute Park Department started in 1883 with the donation of 21 acres by Joseph Collett, Jr. for Collett Park. Today the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department operates under Code 3-1-3 through 36-10-3 which was passed by the City Council through General Ordinance #6 on June 11, 1982.

The Board is responsible for the supervision of the Department which includes both administrative and fiscal responsibility. The Board may enter into contractual agreements and may finance improvements by issuing general obligation bonds after obtaining a resolution from the city council approving the issuance of such bonds.

PARK POLICIES AND DESCRIPTIONS

It appears that these documents are well written and applicable, however, many of these documents were approved in 1985 with some additional items added such as: drug testing, approved in January 1996; Trail System additions, added November 24, 2002; and Electronic Communications, added July 19, 2004.

The policies and job descriptions should be reviewed every year with recommendations for changes and additions being approved by the Park Board.



Park Office

the parks department MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE

INTRODUCTION

There are at least 35 areas that are under the maintenance supervision of this department. These areas contain over 975 acres and range in size from .1 acre at One Triangle to 230 acres at Hulman Links. Over 900 acres are mown by the department every week during the growing season.

STAFFING

There are 20 Employees in maintenance. This includes:

- (2) Mechanics
- (2) Trail Managers
- (2) Park Managers (Deming and Fairbanks)
- (2) Directors/Assistant Directors
- (1) Director of Operation and Safety

Staffing has held consistent over the last four to five

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in house whenever they can. For example, last year they built grills themselves.

Another impact of budget reductions is they have been more reactive than proactive. This unfortunately means that they are deferring maintenance for the future.

As an example, it has been over four years since the department completed a comprehensive painting effort.

PRIORITY MAINTENANCE NEEDS

The biggest current needs for maintenance are as follows:

- Equipment to maintain the parks is needed. Mowers and utility vehicles are the biggest need, but they also need work trucks too. The department is putting a lot of money into outdated mowers. Even more, they really can't afford to fix the mowers that were supposed to be cycled out. They have \$12,000 mowers that they've used so much that they can't get trade in value other than a few hundred dollars in scrap metal value. *NO*
- Many highly used park shelters are poor condition. The department usually replaces some each year, but this has been cut from the budget recently. Additionally, replacement of some of the larger shelters is needed, but is such a large expense that it has not been feasible. *NO*
- The maintenance facility is in very poor condition. This was noted as a major concern for the last plan. They cited buildings and roofs in poor condition, and the need for cabinets to store flammable materials. An example was given that they have standing water on the floors after it rains, sometimes several inches deep. *NO*

BUDGET STRATEGIES

Here are some of the strategies being employed by the department to address budget concerns.

- **Make High Impact, Low Cost Decisions:**
One strategy the department has used is to focus on decisions that have low materials costs. Since labor costs are already in the budget, they have prioritized projects that are largely labor focused. For example, they did a lot of clearing along the Heritage Trail in Dobb's Park.

the parks department

MAINTENANCE

- **Make the Public Aware of Budget Choices:** There is a reluctance to show the public how the budget cuts have really impacted the Parks System. While it is easy to defer maintenance since the public won't see that for years, the long term cost burden is significant. Instead, it is appropriate to cut both visible things (i.e. a reduction in the area you mow) and behind-the-scenes work (i.e. major maintenance).
- **Make Decisions Together:** The Superintendent and Maintenance department leaders work together to prioritize maintenance decisions. By working together, they can best manage decisions during tough times.
- **Capital Improvements Budget:** It is recommended that the department begin developing and updating an annual capital improvements plan. This plan should include capital projects and major maintenance work throughout the system. Each heading should identify the cost of the work and the funding source. It is recommended that this be updated every year, and that the document project at least 4 to 5 years into the future.
- **Establish Maintenance Equipment Obsolescence Plan:** While this was established as a goal in the previous plan, budget reductions never allowed it to get started. It is essential that this be developed, and the costs included in the capital improvements budget

VANDALISM

Vandalism continues to be an ongoing concern for the department. It is worse in the summer when schools are out. In these summer months, they expect to have a vandalism issue every night somewhere in the system.

The parks has looked at hiring a parks ranger as a part time position during summer months, but the budget has not allowed this. The department is now tracking repair costs from vandalism to see if the cost of a ranger would offset the repair costs.



Tennis Courts in Need of Repair



Playground and Restroom with Graffiti

*Local
mowers*

the parks department MAINTENANCE



Coy Park - Open Field



National Road Heritage Trail

MOWING

An ongoing goal of the parks department is to reduce the number of acres mown by the department each week in the summer. With over 900 acres of lawn in the department, a significant portion of the city's budget is for mowing. It is recommended that each park be reviewed to determine if the area of mowing can be reduced.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The first trails installed by the parks department are now over ten years old, and are in need of significant repair work. The challenge with pavement maintenance is that you need to seal cracks in the pavement soon after they develop. Otherwise, the pavement can deteriorate very quickly.

While the parks department is clearly responsible for day-to-day maintenance of the trails, they are not equipped, trained or staffed to handle pavement maintenance. This work is usually completed by the Street Department in most communities. There is immediate maintenance needed on the trails, so it is important that the parks work with the Street and Engineering Departments to determine how best to accommodate pavement repair. Even more, the departments need to work together to determine how to begin to plan for the eventual need to resurface or replace sections of the trails.

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Track annual vandalism repair costs.
- Develop and maintain an annual capital improvements plan.
- Develop equipment obsolescence plan.
- Develop a plan for and assign responsibility for both short and long term trail pavement repair/replacement.
- Develop plan to reduce mowing.



the parks department

FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS & STANDARDS

FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS & STANDARDS

Best practices for park and recreation plans include rigid standards to establish the number of park areas required to meet the needs of the community. There are several general park classifications and they serve a specific purpose. The features and facilities developed in these parks are designed ideally to meet the number of age segments that will use these areas. The Agency must consider the age factor as it designs and develops parks for specific uses.

The following age groups are generally used when we are planning park development.

- Toddlers, ages 2 -5
- Youth, ages 6 – 12
- Teens, ages 13 – 17
- Young Adults, ages 18 – 35
- Adults, ages 36 – 64
- Older Adults, ages 65+

In general, a park system is composed of a series of open spaces each space serving a particular segment of the community, certain recreational and leisure pursuits, and are compatible with the entire park system. The following descriptions have been established over the years by Federal, State and local systems and serve as a benchmark for planning and implementation.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

These parks are normally designed to serve 1,000 persons per 1.5 acres and are generally 2 to 10 acres in size. They serve an individual neighborhood or small community group. Persons who use these parks normally live within a .5 mile radius of the site.



Deming Park - Pool



Veterans Memorial Park - Sculpture



Oakley Park - Neighborhood Park

*For the park
general
solid information*

the parks department

FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

Some of the traits found in this type of park:

- There is generally one main amenity such as a shelter; special playground structure; a sport court such as basketball, tennis or pickleball court.
- This park is usually not programmed and probably is not a revenue facility.
- There is some security lighting, small parking area or street parking and signage should be relative and strategically placed.
- This space is generally well used but in short time blocks by the participant, normally less than two hours.
- Generally these areas require a low level of landscaping but maintenance will be considerable because these parks are well used, which is a good attribute.

COMMUNITY PARK & ATHLETIC COMPLEXES

A typical community park will contain 10 to 100 acres; it is a bike-to or drive-to park area as it serves an entire community within a 1.5 mile radius. A general standard would be 3-7 acres per 1,000 people.

Generally these parks have several signature facilities such as sports fields and sport courts, a pool or water feature, a recreation center, large and small shelters, public restrooms, etc. They will have ample parking, security lighting and maintenance standards which will assure a long life for the various amenities. Solid signage and marketing is a must to assure the success of this investment.

This park will have strong programming that will offer the Agency an opportunity to produce revenue to offset operational costs with a possibility of retaining some revenues for debt retirement and future expenses within the park.

REGIONAL PARK

A park of this nature will generally have 100 to 1,000

acres and has 4 acres per 1,000 persons. It will draw participants from as far away as 60 miles because of the amenities contained in this area. Amenities in this type of park area are facilities for overnight camping, fishing and boating, golf courses, aquatic facilities, gardens, zoos, BMX track and Extreme Sports facilities, concession areas.

Again, these parks are revenue producers to offset operational costs. There will be strong programming in these parks and there will need to be solid marketing, signage, landscaping and adequate parking for all of the amenities.

Because these parks are generally about 50% active use and 50% passive there is a higher maintenance ratio with this park area. Generally a level 2 type of maintenance is necessary in most of the park with level 1 maintenance at the entry.

GREENWAYS & MULTIPURPOSE TRAILS

Across America this type of park has grown in popularity. Much of this started with the railway abandonment by the nation's major railroads. In many states there are Federal and State funding sources for development of these amenities. Users range in age from toddlers to older adults. Reasons for the success of greenways and multipurpose trails are many and the following is just a sample:

- Safe and alternative forms of transportation for walking, running, biking and even equestrian in some cases.
- Paved trails ranging in width from a few feet to twelve feet or more is common.
- Restrooms and trail signage is important.
- Trailheads with adequate parking and lighting are necessary.
- Maintenance is important and a level 2 is acceptable.
- Greenways and trails offer a unique opportunity in regards to outdoor education and historical sites.



the parks department

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

STAFFING

The agency has a Director of Recreation and an Assistant Director of Recreation. They are responsible for recreation programs and special events. The general recreation programming includes the following core group of activities:

- Day Camps, for youth, ages 5 – 12, Summer
- Adult Softball Leagues, men and co-ed, Summer/Fall
- Pottery, Ceramics and Arts, adults/youth, year-round
- Swimming and Swim Lessons, Summer
- Special Events, 24 activities with something each month, adult/youth

Dir. Rec./Asst. Dir. Rec.
The recreation coordinators' offices are in Torner Center along with one additional full-time employee and a secretary at the facility. *Secretary*

In addition to the normal recreation offerings the agency is fortunate to have two special recreation facilities which offer a variety of programs. These include the Nature Center and the Native American Museum.

NATURE CENTER

This facility is located in Dobbs Memorial Park. It is overseen by a full-time Naturalist. The facility on a year-round basis, five days per week except for major holidays. Programs are provided for schools and organizations, Saturday programs and a Junior Naturalist Program for any park visitor seven years or older. This facility has educational displays on topics such as plants, wildlife, the environment, weather and the universe plus some live animal displays of native Indiana reptiles, amphibians, fish and crustaceans.

NATIVE AMERICAN MUSEUM

This facility is also located in Dobbs Memorial Park

and has a full time curator. Events take place year-round, five days per week except for major holidays. Programs are offered for schools and organizations during the week. Additional programs are offered for youth and adults with hands on training by a Native American artisan as a guide. Learning about Native American cultures is enhanced as the facility has historical and pre-historical artifacts and treasures on display.

RECREATION NEEDS

Indoor Facility: In order to expand programming, a larger facility is needed as the Torner Center in Deming Park is too small, seriously limiting class size.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

The Booker T. Washington Center is located near 13th and College Avenue. This community and recreation center is owned by the Department and includes offices for social services and a full size gymnasium that can be utilized by the public. Program direction within the facility is provided by Chances and Service for Youth, a local not-for-profit.



Torner Community Center

GOLF COURSES

The Parks Department oversees two golf courses; Hulman Links and William S. Rea Golf Course.

Hulman Links

Hulman Links has 230 acres and was built in 1978. The course has streams, ponds, rolling hills and trees which create a beautiful 18-hole golf course that presents a solid golfing challenge and experience for the golfers. In 2008, Golf Digest rated Hulman Links "4 1/2 stars" and a "must play" course. This facility has a nice small restaurant area with a bar. The course has a driving range and a putting green.

While once considered one of the best courses in Indiana, Hulman Links needs investment to regain that status. Challenges with irrigation and maintenance have plagued the course, and driven down its use. The result is the course has been losing significant money each year.

Much of the problem has been attributed to poor course conditions due to lack of irrigation water. The course pumps water from Lost Creek to on-site ponds during wet seasons. Irrigation water is pulled from these ponds to irrigate the course. When Lost Creek dries up during dry months, the course is solely dependent upon the ponds for irrigation water. For many years now, the creek and ponds have dried up by mid-summer, resulting in unfavorable playing conditions and a corresponding reduction in the number of rounds played for the rest of the year.

To address these and related concerns, the City established a Golf Oversight Committee to review the issues and provide direction to the Golf Pro and maintenance departments. Their recommendations have been positively received and are in the process of being implemented.

In 2013, the City is making a series of significant investments into the course, and golf operations

in general. Drainage systems have been upgraded throughout the course. New, drought tolerant Zoysia grass is being installed. A second source for irrigation water has been found, and when installed will keep the course in good condition throughout the year.

Still, the future of Hulman Links is the subject of much discussion. Some feel that the course cannot be made to turn a profit while operated by the City. Others call for giving the course back to the Hulman family. Many others say the City should lease the course to a private operator.

The current plan is to make these investments in the course, and to try to get the course to turn a profit within the period of this plan. If it cannot be made profitable by 2017, the City will need to then begin to consider the other options available.

Some of the specific needs and issues at Hulman Links include:

- The entire irrigation system needs replaced. It was built in 1976, and has exceeded its 25 year life expectancy. The system is experiencing problems with pumps, leakage and the shut off control system. The pumps were rebuilt in 2000, but need more work. It is expected to cost \$1.0-1.5M to replace the system.
- Provide second water source for irrigation.
- Install drought tolerant Zoysia grass.
- Establish maintenance equipment obsolescence plan.
- The cart paths are in very poor shape and need replaced.
- Their maintenance building roof leaks and needs repaired or replaced.
- Drainage improvements need made at the course. The clay soil makes drainage an ongoing challenge. This is currently being completed in coordination with the sanitary district.
- The greens need to be re-built.



the parks department

GOLF COURSES

William S. Rea Golf Course

Rea Park contains 160 acres and was opened in 1925 with funding provided by Mrs. Geraldine Rea. The park has a beautiful clubhouse with historical value. The course has 18 holes, a driving range and putting green. There are also nine (9) tennis courts that are well used.

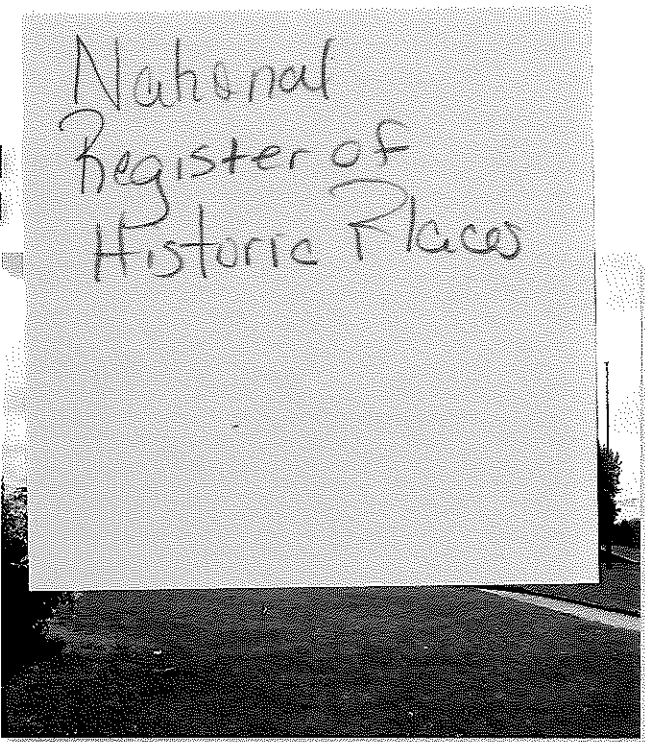
In contrast to Hulman Links, Rea Park is built on sandy soil and has a stable water supply for irrigation. The result is the course stays in playable condition throughout most of the year.

In 2012, the course made a \$20,000 profit. The closing of a nearby driving range at the Mall caused increased their revenue for the driving range to nearly \$57,000 – helping contribute to the success of the course.

Still, profitability is not guaranteed into the future. The course had a record March because of good weather in 2012, but March 2013 had very little use because of cold temperatures and snow. The course recently signed new golf cart leases, and did not have a \$40-45,000 annual lease payment for carts in 2012.

One of the City's concerns for this course is actually its over-use. They sell many annual passes, and some of those users are believed to use the pass up to 200 times a year.

To better understand the use of both courses, the City is instituting a new point of sale system in 2013. Following the 2013 season, the City will have significant cost and usage data to understand how to better establish appropriate fees in the future.



Rea Park Clubhouse



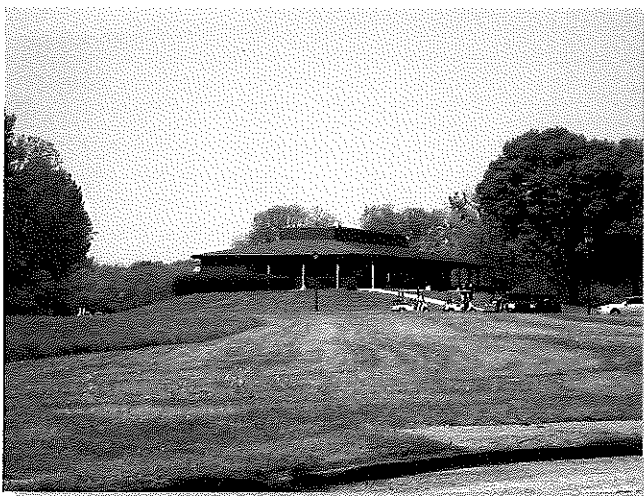
Cart Path in Poor Condition

the parks department

GOLF COURSES



Rea Park Course



Hulman Links Pro Shop and Restaurant

Specific recommendations for Rea Park include:

- Re-evaluate fee structure using data from new point of sale system.
- Rea Park's irrigation system was installed in 1984. It is also beyond its 25 year anticipated useful life, but is still in good condition. The Department needs to start budgeting now for its eventual replacement.
- The Rea Park Clubhouse is an outstanding historic structure, but is in need of upgrades. A committee has been formed to evaluate needed work, and determine how to pay for the improvements.

VALUE OF GOLF

While community leaders strive to make golf operations more profitable, it is important to realize the many ways that golf brings significant value to the City. Consider the following:

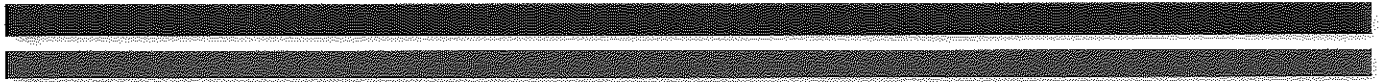
- Over \$200,000 is raised for local charities each year during golf events. Each event takes away from general admission and sales that could have otherwise occurred to make it more profitable.
- Golf is a key quality of life amenity for many residents. Providing an affordable option for golf recreation is critical to the overall value of parks, and for the quality of life in the greater Terre Haute area.
- Golf is an indispensable asset to businesses. Without quality golf courses, many businesses simply would not consider locating in Terre Haute.

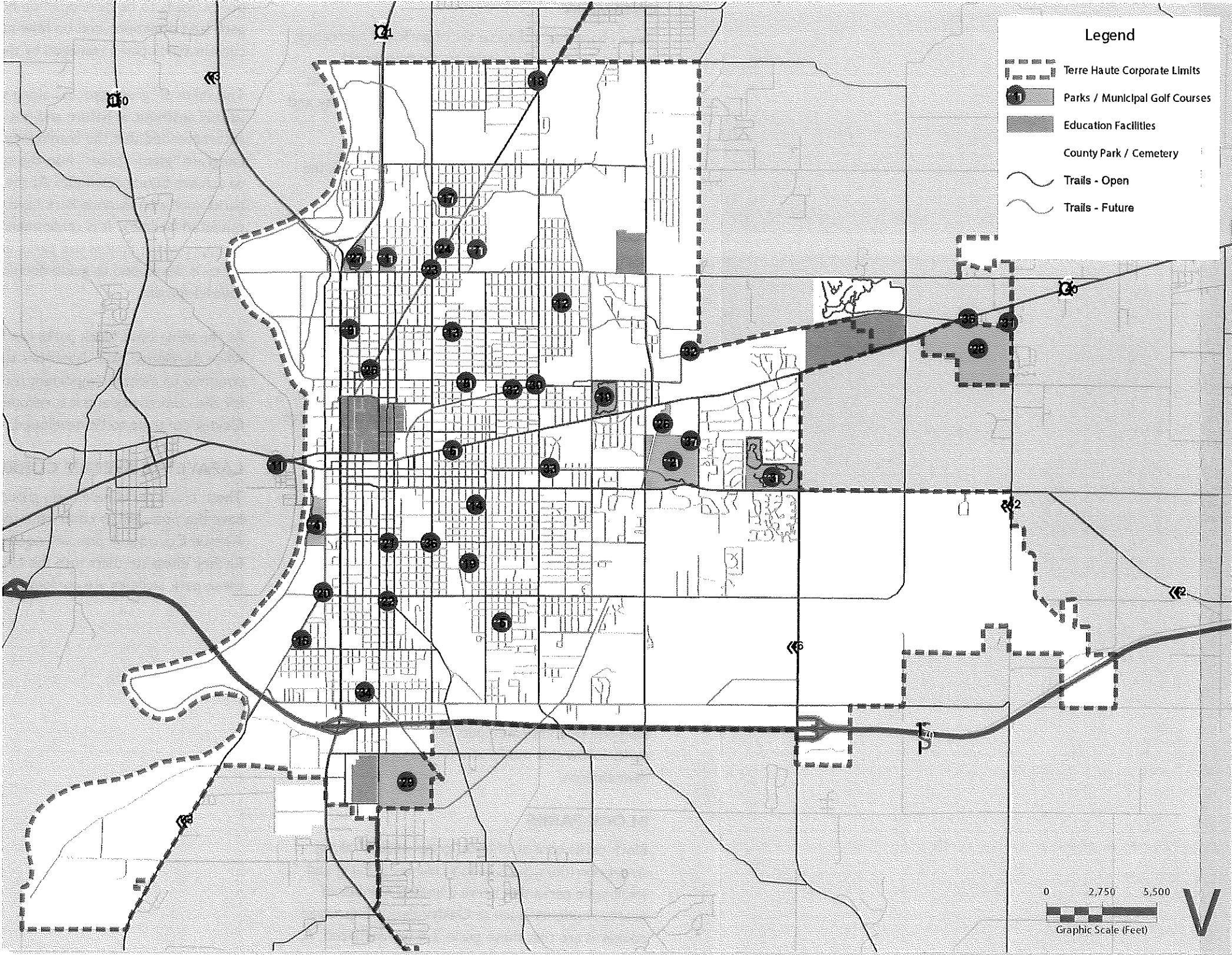
THE PARK SYSTEM



the park system

SUMMARY





COMMUNITY PARKS

- 1 Collett Park
- 2 Deming Park
- 3 Dobbs Park
- 4 Fairbanks Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- 5 Brittlebank Park
- 6 Curtis Gilbert Park
- 7 Coy Park
- 8 Herz-Rose Park
- 9 not used
- 10 Veterans Memorial Park
- 11 Paul Dresser Memorial Park
- 12 Sheridan Park
- 13 Spencer F. Ball Park
- 14 Thompson Park
- 15 Voorhees Park
- 16 Washington Park

BLOCK PARKS

- 17 Anaconda Park
- 18 Five Triangles Park
- 19 Graham Park
- 20 John Hanley Jr. Park
- 21 Oakley Park
- 22 One Triangle

LAFAYETTE AVENUE CORRIDOR PARKS

- 23 12 Points Park
- 24 Boy Scout Park
- 25 Vi Cottrell Park

PROPOSED / UNDEVELOPED PARK SPACE

- 26 17 acres Maintenance Facility (Proposed)
- 27 Maple Avenue Nature Park

MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

- 28 Hulman Links
- 29 William S. Rea Park

TRAILS, GREENWAYS, AND BOULEVARDS

- 30 Centennial Park
- 31 Jones Trailhead
- 32 National Road Heritage Trail
- 33 Ohio Boulevard
- 34 Sixth Street Boulevard
- 35 Twigg Rest Area

RECREATIONAL CENTER

- 36 Booker T. Washington Community Center (at Washington Park)
- 37 Torner Center (at Deming Park)

the park system

SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

Terre Haute has a diverse set of park and recreation facilities. From pocket parks to neighborhood facilities to trails to golf courses, Terre Haute parks serve residents throughout the City, Vigo County, and surrounding communities.

For the purposes of overview and organization, the parks have been categorized as follows:

COMMUNITY PARKS

The major community parks such as Collet Park, Deming Park, Dobb’s Park, and Fairbanks Park, serve the recreational needs of residents throughout the City and surrounding communities. Offerings in these locations are wide ranging and include museums, shelters, athletics, open space, festivals, nature preserves, aquatics facilities, playgrounds, and many other facilities. These are the jewels of the Terre Haute park system.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks such as Booker T. Washington Park, Brittlebank Park, and Voorhees Park are more modest and focused on providing services to serve the residents living within a short walk.

One of the goals of this plan has been to elevate parks to the point they drive the vitality of the neighborhoods that they serve. For example, Collet Park is a model facility that engages its neighborhood and creates a sense of pride in the community. It is intended that improvements at other neighborhood parks follow this model as a means of spurring revitalization.

BLOCK PARKS

Block parks consist of both “green spaces” along street corridors (such as John Hanley Jr. Park) and small-scale parks that serve a limited number of nearby residents (such as Oakley Park). Expressed concerns are that these parks are underutilized; A

policy needs to be developed on how to accept future park land donations, and on how to maintain/redevelop current block parks managed by the park department.

The value of “green spaces” along street corridors is usually aesthetic in nature and not recreational. It is recommended that the community find ways to better integrate “green spaces” into the street corridors to achieve better aesthetics. At the same time, block parks such as Anaconda Park have very limited and outdated facilities. It is recommended that no facilities be improved at limited use parks until a long term policy is developed to guide decision making on their redevelopment.

At the same time, block parks can be very effective when developed well. Locations such as Oakley Park continue to meet an important recreational need for the community, and it is recommended parks like Oakley continue to be developed.

LAFAYETTE AVENUE CORRIDOR PARKS

These block parks have been grouped because they have the potential to contribute to the greater Lafayette Avenue Corridor. A plan will need to be developed to further integrate them into the corridor. Nonetheless, these park facilities are currently underutilized.

the park system

SUMMARY



Vi Cottrell Park



Rea Park Golf Course



Booker T. Washington Community Center

PROPOSED/UNDEVELOPED PARKS

Park property at 17 Acres Park has been transferred from the City to the Parks Department adjacent to Deming Park. It has been proposed that this space be developed into a maintenance facility for the department.

MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSES

Hulman Links is the premier golf course in the city and attracts golfers from throughout the region. Rea Park is another quality golf course operated by the City on the south side of town. The courses both provide significant contribution to the city and the parks department.

TRAILS, GREENWAYS AND BOULEVARDS

Most major components of the City's original vision for the greenway system are now in place. With that in place, the near-term priority for greenways is to finish filling in minor gaps in the system, and to finish the connections to other parks and attractions throughout the City.

RECREATIONAL CENTERS

There are two community centers in the City. Torner Center is located at Deming Park and provides office space for the parks department, concessions for Deming Park, as well as a public meeting room. The Community Center at Booker T. Washington Park provides activities for area youth. Facilities include a gymnasium and classrooms with educational/ after-school programming. Additionally, the Collett Pavillion in Collett Park houses indoor recreational meeting room space.



the park system

SUMMARY

Park Facilities Summary		
Park	Size	Location
Community Parks		
Collett Park	21.1 Acres	7th Street and Maple Avenue
Deming Park	160 Acres	Fruitridge and Ohio Boulevard
John G. Dobbs Memorial Park	105 Acres	5170 E. Poplar Drive
Fairbanks Park	48 Acres	625 Dresser Drive
Neighborhood Parks		
Brittlebank Park	7.5 Acres	20th Street and Grant Street
Coy Park	4.5 Acres	16th Street and Barbour Avenue
Curtis Gilbert Park	3.85 Acres	1431 Wabash Avenue
Herz-Rose Park	5.18 Acres	1515 Locust Street
Maple Avenue Nature Park	25 Acres	500 Maple Avenue
Veterans Memorial Park (ISU Stadium)	22 Acres	Wabash Avenue and Brown Avenue
Paul Dresser Memorial Park	5.55 Acres	US 40 west of Wabash River
Sheridan Park	6.5 Acres	28th Street and Ash Street
Spencer F. Ball Park	9.86 Acres	14th Street and 8th Avenue
Thompson Park	4.73 Acres	17th Street and Oak Street
Voorhees Park	17.4 Acres	230 Voorhees Street
Booker T. Washington Park	2.4 Acres	13th Street and College Avenue
Block Parks		
Anaconda Park	.5 Acres	14th Street and Elizabeth Street
Five Triangles (Terre Town)	.2 Acres	25th Street and Lafayette Avenue
Graham Park	.96 Acres	Harrison Street and 17th Street
John M. Hanley, Jr. Memorial Park	.3 Acres	First Street, Hulman St., and SR 63
Oakley Park	.5 Acres	College Street and 8th Street
One Triangle	.1 Acres	8th Street and Hulman Street

the park system

SUMMARY

Park Facilities Summary		
Park	Size	Location
Lafayette Avenue Corridor Parks		
Boy Scout Park	.32 Acres	Lafayette Avenue and Barbour Avenue
Gold Medal Plaza at 12 Points Park	.30 Acres	Lafayette Ave., Maple Ave., and 13th Street
Vi Cottrell Park	.30 Acres	Lafayette Avenue and 1st Avenue
Proposed/Undeveloped Park Space		
17 Acres Park	17 Acres	4113 E.Wabash Avenue
Municipal Golf Courses		
Hulman Links Golf Course	230 Acres	990 North Chamberlain Road
William S. Rea Park	160 Acres	7th Street and Davis Drive
Trails, Greenways and Boulevards		
Centennial Park	.93 Acres	25th St. and National Rd. Heritage Trail
Jones Trailhead	2 Acres	Chamberlain Road
National Road Heritage Trail	Approx. 64 Acres	Twigg Rest Area to ISU
Ohio Boulevard	46.1 Acres	19th Street to Fruitridge Avenue
6th Street Boulevard	5 Acres	Helen Avenue to College Avenue
Twigg Rest Area	2 Acres	US 40 East of Overpass
Recreation Centers		
Booker T.Washington Community Center		In Washington Park
Torner Center		In Deming Park



the park system

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

Public input was sought for this project in several ways. Key community stakeholders were interviewed to understand their concerns and ideas for the parks system. The public was also surveyed to understand how they use the parks and what they expect out of the park system. A public meeting was held February 12th, 2013 to hear opinions and ideas regarding the master plan. Public meetings were also held to present the goals and objectives of the plan.

Stakeholder Interviews

A stakeholder meeting was held on February 8th, 2013 at the Torner Center with key community leaders during the course of the planning study. The meeting lasted around two hours. Comments were discussed in a group forum, and individual surveys were circulated to these persons. Those attending this session included:

1. Human Relations, City of Terre Haute - Jeff Lorrnick *Intern*
2. Terre Haute City Planner - Pat Martin *none*
3. City Council - Norm Loudermilk
4. City Council - Jim Chalos
5. Executive Director, Vigo County Historical Society - Marylee Hagan
6. Terre Haute City Engineer - Chuck Ennis
7. Director of Marketing, First Financial Bank - Terry Tevlin
8. Director, Facilities Operations & Maintenance, ISU - Jim Jensen
9. CEO, Regional Hospital - Mary Ann Conroy
10. Owner, Lawler Sports - Rex Lawler
11. Director of Planning, HWC - Cory Whitesell
12. Superintendent, Terre Haute Parks Department (THPD) - Eddie Bird
13. Assistant Superintendent, THPD - Rita Coleman-Alsop *Alysha Kesner*
14. Director of Recreation, THPD - Bruce Rosselli
15. Assistant Director of Recreation, THPD - Alysha Kesner *Ashley Tyler*
16. Office Manager, THPD - Tina Bauer

17. Naturalist, THPD - Carissa Lovett

18. Curator, THPD - Jane Creedon

19. Golf Operations Manager, THPD - Dave Kennedy *Hulman Greg Tewe*

Synopsis

Copies of notes from this meeting are included in the appendix. Some of the key discussion points touched on during this meeting included:

- Diversifying park use for festivals. Move some events to smaller parks to help bring people to those areas.
- The need for an aquatics center/water park and use of splash pads in smaller parks.
- Better trail maintenance and expanded restroom operation along trails
- Parks help attract and retain employees and are a great economic attraction.
- One of top 3 questions from new employees is where can they spend recreational time.
- The Nature Center needs to be expanded and modernized.
- Considerations for lower income communities if parks are sold. Several parks have been deeded to the Parks Department and can not be sold.
- Put more art in the parks.
- Increase more people in the parks to increase safety and reduce vandalism.
- Need to increase sponsorship.
- Need to get the word out to the public on how to help. People want to help, but don't know how.



Stakeholder Meeting

the park system

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY



Stakeholder Meeting

Staff Interviews

Meetings with staff were conducted as part of the planning effort. These interviews took place March 19th, 2013 at the Torner Center and lasted around an hour each. Those interviews included:

- Recreation: Bruce Rosselli and Alysha Kesner *Ashley Tyler*
- Maintenance: Hal Orndorff and Billy Hubbard
- Golf Course Superintendents: Dave Alumbaugh and Don Alumbaugh *Billy Alumbaugh*
- Golf Pro: Dave Kennedy *Gary Town*
- Asst. Superintendent: Rita Coleman-Alsop
- Nature Center and Native American Museum: Carissa Lovett and Jane Creeden

Copies of notes from these meetings are included in the appendix. Key discussion points included:

- Additional investment is needed in city's aquatics offerings. It was not clear if that should be within the next 5 years.
- A current emphasis is expanding wellness and fitness offerings.
- Budget cuts have had widespread impact on the department.
- Park shelters need to be improved.
- Maintenance facilities and equipment are in very poor condition.
- Significant investment is needed at Hulman Links to improve irrigation, golf carts, grass and maintenance.
- A new point of sale golf system will better position the city to understand correct rates to charge for golf.
- ~~The city still needs a bark park.~~
- Frisbee golf is popular and being expanded.



the park system

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

PUBLIC SURVEY

Over 200 responses were received for a public online survey created by the Parks Department through Constant Contact. A link to the online survey was published in the local paper and placed on the Parks Department Facebook page. The Parks Department also sent an email blast to its network of interested citizens and user groups with a link to the survey. While user group bias was a concern, it does not appear to be an issue based on the responses and the multiple groups of users the survey link was sent to.

A full copy of survey results is included in the appendix. A summary of some of the key questions follows:

Question 5 – Which parks have you used?

Deming Park, Dobbs Park and Fairbanks Park are the most used parks. The trails, Collett Park and Thompson park are in the second tier of use. Several of the smaller block parks get used the least.

Question 6 – What activities or services do you use?

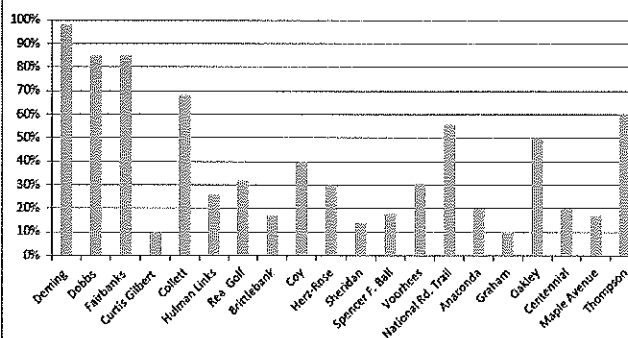
Restrooms, shelters, playgrounds and trails are the most used facilities at the parks. The skate park, soccer, horseshoes and volleyball are the activities engaged in the least.

Question 9 – Classes and events you participate in

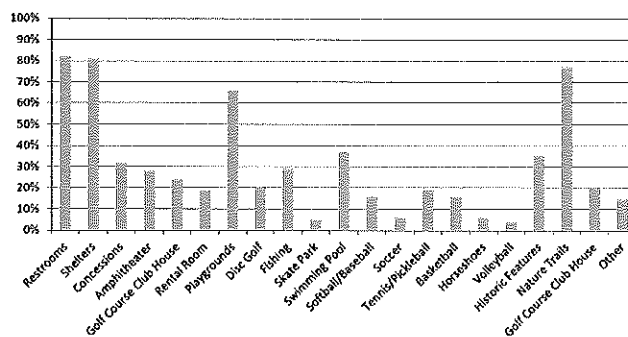
The most popular events are Christmas in the Park Lights or Pictures with Santa, Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks, and the Annual Banks of the Wabash Valley Festival. The least popular events are swim lessons, the Men of Note Concert, Pottery Classes and the Disc Golf Tournament.

* This survey was not intended as a scientific survey, but rather as a tool to gauge public opinion. Any decisions always warrant additional input and continual input should be sought. Additional detailed and/or scientific surveys and forms of input should be sought for any major decisions coming from the Parks Department

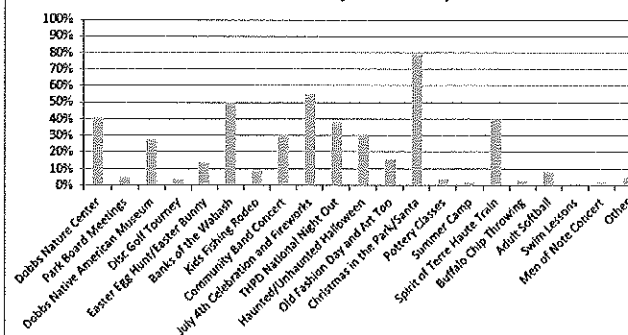
Which Parks Have You Used?



What Activities/Services do You Use?



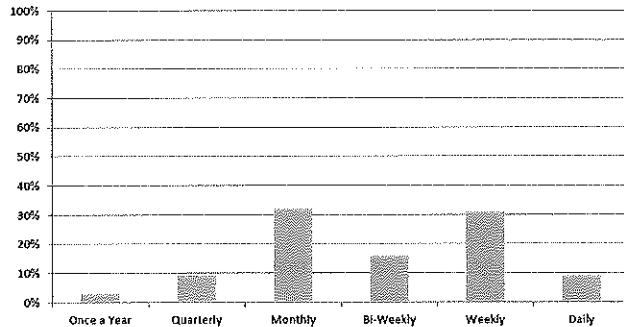
Classes and Events you Participate In



the park system

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

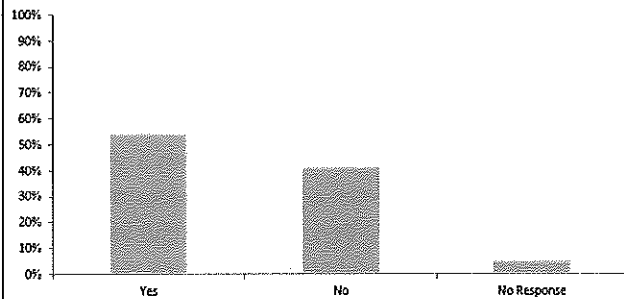
How Often do You Visit the Parks?



Question 12 – How often do you visit the parks?

Over 88% of the respondents visit the parks on at least a monthly basis. Only a small percentage visit the parks on a yearly basis.

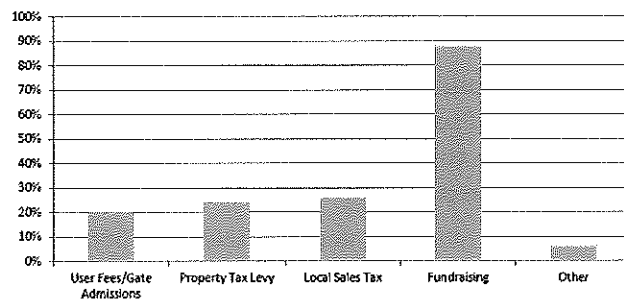
Would You Like More Information About Terre Haute Parks and Recreation and Services We Offer



Question 14 – Would you like more information about Terre Haute Parks and Recreation and the services we offer?

Over half of the persons responding were interested in more information. This means the Parks can do more to get the word out on park and recreation opportunities.

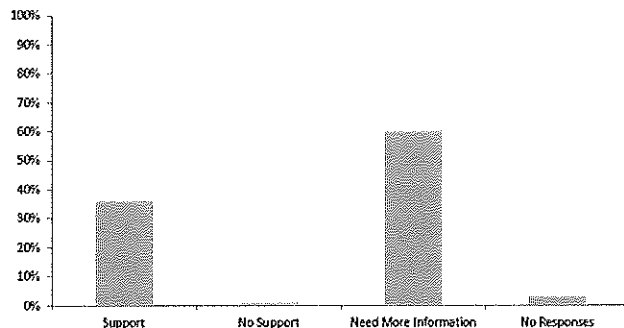
How Should Funds be Raised for Financing New Recreational Programs/Facilities?



Question 16 – How should funds be raised for financing NEW recreational programs and facilities.

88% of respondents indicated that grants, donations and sponsorships should be used to finance new programs and facilities.

If a Parks Foundation Was Established, Would You...



Question 20 – If a foundation was established by the Parks Department to assist with long term planning, sustaining and future growth expenses, would you...

35% of responses indicated persons would support a Parks Foundation, while 60% needed more information.



the park system

VISION

VISION

Throughout the planning process, it was repeated multiple times that Terre Haute has an incredible park system, and that taking care of the system is the highest priority to the community. Concerns were also consistently expressed that maintaining that park system is going to become more and more difficult as funding decreases. Park leaders understand that establishing long term alternative revenue streams is essential for meeting their goal of taking care of the parks system. Also critical to the success of the department will be continuing to educate the public on the value of parks so that the public will continue to support improvements to park facilities.

GOALS

While there are many other important issues, these concerns were repeated by the public, key stakeholders, staff and board members – and therefore it was agreed that these are the highest priorities of the plan. These priorities are further detailed as follows:

Goal: Implement green/sustainability best practices throughout the department.

The Parks department should work to identify and implement opportunities to increase the sustainability of their operations as well as become a leader in sustainability throughout the community. Significant opportunities to increase sustainability have been identified. These should be carefully investigated to determine the feasibility of implementation in the department. Ultimately, the department should develop a sustainability guide for the Parks Department. Specific examples include:

- Develop a mulching program mulching around trees to reduce the amount of trimming.
- Grow own nursery and native plant stock.
- Continue partnership with organizations like Trees, Inc. to implement best practices for maintaining and replacing trees.

- Construct sustainable maintenance facility where sustainability protocols can more easily be implemented.
- Reduce the area mown in city parks (the department currently mows over 900 acres of grass during summer months).
- Begin a recycling program within the parks and at park buildings
- Encourage new construction to utilize sustainable materials and methods.
- Consider policy to follow LEED standards on new construction.
- Replace inefficient building systems with new high efficiency, low consumption systems.

Goal: Establish replacement policies for maintenance equipment.

The Parks Department currently operates a significant number of trucks, mowers, and other pieces of equipment that are well beyond their useful lifespan. In many instances this equipment is costing more to maintain than it would cost to purchase new equipment. A policy needs to be developed to guide decision making on the scheduled maintenance and replacement of park maintenance equipment.

Goal: Consolidate east/central maintenance operations into a single facility at 17 Acres Park. Make this facility a model for sustainable maintenance protocols.

There are currently maintenance facilities at both Dobb's Park and Deming Park, even though the facilities are nearly adjacent to each other. The facility at Dobb's park is severely deteriorated and is a detriment to the park. While the Deming Park maintenance areas are in better condition, the additional space could be used for recreation.

With the transfer of 17 Acres Park from the City to the Parks Department, a location is now available for a maintenance facility adjacent to Deming but not visible from the park. This would give the maintenance department space to conduct mulching operations,

the park system

GOALS



Playset at Oakley Playground



Collett Park Sign

composting, equipment storage, maintenance, and other activities without the additional cost of trying to make it tidy enough to be visible from the parks.

Specifically, it is seen that this facility could be developed to enable the City to implement sustainable maintenance practices in the parks as mentioned previously. A conceptual park plan has been developed for this concept and can be found in the 'Park System: East District' section.

Goal: Establish and promote a parks endowment.

As a first step, the parks should seek out an individual to serve as chair of the foundation and spearhead initial fundraising. The proposed parks endowment would improve and enhance the park system beyond the capabilities of tax-supported funding. It would provide citizens of the community the opportunity to give a valuable and permanent gift that will keep the park system beautiful and inviting to guests forever.

It is recommended that the parks endowment be established through the local community foundation in lieu of setting up a separate not-for-profit park foundation to run its own endowment. By joining efforts with the local Community Foundation, advertising can be combined, they can have the major responsibility of overseeing the gifts, and people will be confident that their gift will be managed well. This is another example of a simple step that can be taken now to build a brighter future for the Parks Department. While it will not raise significant funds in the short term, this could be a major long term revenue stream for the park system.



the park system

GOALS

Goal: Partner with local schools, universities and media outlets to increase visibility of park events through both promotion and coverage of the events.

It is recognized that Terre Haute is a strong media market and that significant opportunity exists to increase the visibility of park events. Partnerships with schools and universities could help in the development of media oriented promotional materials for the Department. The media itself presents a great opportunity. Parks leaders could partner with media outlets on regular television news segments to highlight park activities. This could especially be used to promote neighborhood parks, not just what is occurring at community parks.

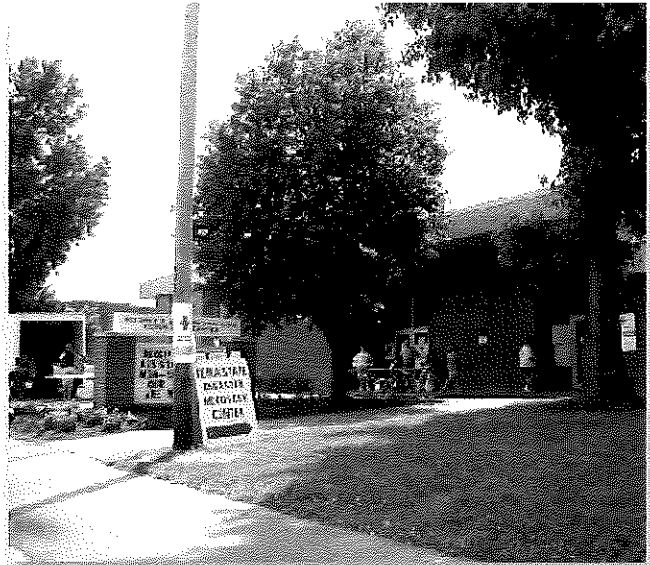
Goal: Establish a consistent professional signage and wayfinding system to make parks more user friendly.

The wood signs used to identify the park system while economical, are not the most effective way to promote the location of park facilities. With the aging of the Terre Haute population, signs that are easier to read with contrasting colors would be helpful.

There are also many local and community parks that are difficult to locate – especially for visitors to the community. The addition of wayfinding signs to help locate the parks is important in creating a strong first impression to visitors.

Calendar/Guide
Goal: Develop park-oriented promotional materials to assist in economic development initiatives.

The parks system in Terre Haute is one of the key assets that can be promoted to prospective business leaders considering the City for their next facility. Business leaders want to develop in communities in which their employees and executives want to live. However, it was identified during stakeholder interviews that there are currently no materials to give to prospective business leaders to help them understand how the parks system contributes to the



Booker T. Washington Community Center



Collett Park Gazebo

quality of life in the community. These materials would also be available to provide to realtors helping people get acclimated to the City.

Goal: Develop policy to guide decisions in elimination of low-use parks

In the previous parks plan, the Department began a dialog about the need to keep under-utilized facilities as parks.

For example, the Department has accumulated a number of parcels along City streets that are maintained for aesthetic purposes. Other examples are parcels in neighborhoods with one or two amenities that are infrequently used.

The department has begun to take first steps toward this goal. In the Edgewood Grove subdivision, the department no longer maintains the traffic islands. Fire department lawn areas are now maintained by the fire department and not the parks. On a larger scale, Memorial Park near the Union Hospital campus has been sold to a private developer.

The department should continue to consider options for divesting themselves of underutilized properties. However, it is recommended that a very deliberate process be followed to make sure that public input is sought and that the needs of all citizens are considered in the process. Particular attention should be made to ensure that the recreation needs of low-to-moderate income neighborhoods and minority populations do not suffer as a result of park reductions. Specific action items related to this include:

- Confirm responsibility for maintenance of low use facilities (i.e. pocket parks) currently maintained by the parks.
- Develop plan for unifying pocket parks with the street corridors that they serve (example: The series of pocket parks along Lafayette Avenue).
- Develop policy to guide decisions on

maintenance and replacement of improvements at low use parks.

- Develop policy for accepting new park lands. Policy needs to include consideration of the value of the land to the overall park system and how maintenance costs associated with the land will be paid.
- Study alternate programming where park facilities no longer match the neighborhoods that they serve.

Goal: Upgrade facilities to meet current accessibility standards

Universal access is a major impediment to park facilities. Restrooms are not wheelchair accessible and fixtures within the restrooms fall well short of accessibility standards. Shelters, playgrounds, and other facilities are isolated from parking areas and sidewalks, limiting who can access them. An extensive effort to bring facilities into compliance with current ADA needs to be undertaken. Specific needs can be found on a park by park basis within the later pages of this document.

ADA compliance should be coordinated with the City's ADA Coordinator, Josey Daugherty, at 17 Harding Ave., Room 200, Terre Haute, IN 47807. Phone: 812-244-4903. The city has also published notice of ADA requirements, ADA Grievance Procedure and point of contact and the Assurance of Accessibility form. These forms and documents can be found in Appendix E.

Specific objectives for the parks department include:

- Develop plan for bringing park system into compliance with ADA standards.
- Address the most significant accessibility issues within the term of this plan. Priority will be based on cost, frequency of use, scheduled obsolescence, and related issues. High cost/low use items may need to be deferred until funds are available.



the park system

GOALS

Goal: Develop a long term aquatics plan

Until the mid-2000's, the City operated pools at Deming Park, Sheridan Park and Voorhees Park. The Sheridan and Voorhees park pools ultimately were closed due to age, condition and lack of use.

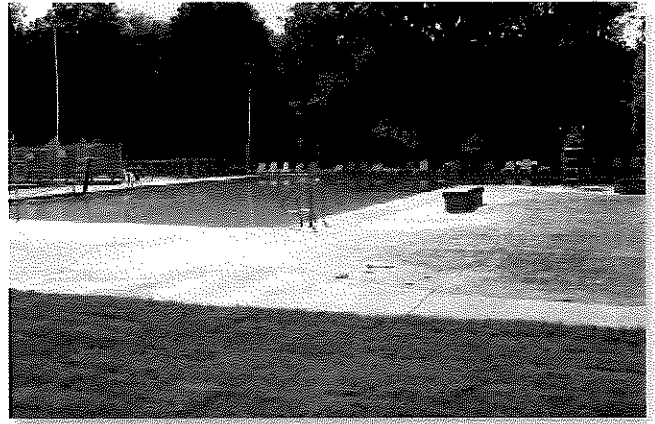
With only one pool currently open, the City is making incremental investments into the Deming Park pool to keep it operational. However, the pool is limited in that it only has a lap pool, diving and a splash pad. Many ideas have been brought forward to address aquatics. A study was done prior to the 2009-2013 Plan that reviewed the construction of a water park at Memorial Stadium. That plan never received enough support to move forward.

Today, we do not know how long the Deming Park pool can last, but it is clear that it is costing more every year to operate and maintain that facility. It is hoped that it will last through 2018, but with the age of the facility, it is possible that it may prove too costly to keep open before then.

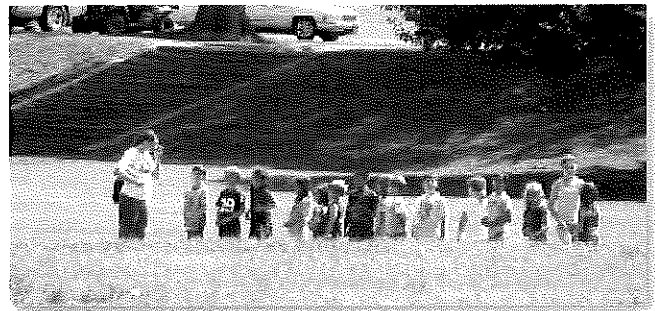
For these reasons, the City needs to take steps to determine a long term strategy for aquatics, including the eventual replacement of the Deming Park pool. This plan should be developed and be ready to implement, if necessary, by the end of 2014.

This plan will need to address:

- Develop plan for the eventual replacement of the Deming Park Pool. The plan will need to consider if the pool should be replaced at Deming Park, or if it should be located elsewhere.
- Determine a short term strategy for the construction of splash pads in the parks. Installation of a splash pad at the recently closed pool site at Sheridan Park would help offset the loss of the community pool in that location. The intent is to construct a total of 2-3 splash pads in the community by 2018.
- Study public/private partnerships, or other creative solutions for providing aquatics programming at a reduced cost to the taxpayer.



Deming Park Pool



School Group



Restoration in Dobbs Park

Goal: Ensure security of park facilities is kept as a top priority.

Past survey results indicated that the majority of visitors feel safe at the parks. Nonetheless, there are parks that have periodically had security concerns. The parks department should be aggressive in staying ahead of these concerns so that security can be ensured for all visitors.

- Investigate alternatives for reducing graffiti problems at parks.
- Investigate alternatives for improving security such as establishing park rangers, local monitoring committees, or internships with local universities.
- Study cost/benefit of continuing to provide employee residences within select parks as a deterrent. Develop policy for future provision of these residences.

Goal: Continue current momentum to complete greenways plan connections.

The survey shows that walking/hiking continues to be a popular activity in the parks, with almost 77 percent of respondents indicating this is how they use the parks. The investment in a greenways program has been well received by the community. Today, most of the initial priority greenway projects are complete.

The next phase of the plan will be to finish connections from greenways to specific parks and other destinations.

Goal: Develop and update a capital improvements budget

It is recommended that the department begin developing and updating an annual capital improvements plan. This plan should include capital projects and major maintenance work throughout the system. Each heading should identify the cost of the work, and the funding source. It is recommended that this be updated every year, and that the document project at least 4 to 5 years into the future.

Goal: Support riverfront redevelopment initiatives

Wabash Valley Development and Beautification, INC. was established to promote the transformation of the riverfront, to provide new growth opportunities for businesses, and to provide a landmark destination for tourists along the Wabash River.

While not a function of the parks department, the redevelopment of the riverfront is in keeping with the spirit and mission of the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department. Therefore, the intent of this goal is to express support for the redevelopment vision.

As the plan develops, the Parks Department will need to determine what role, if any, they have in the initiative.

Goal: Implement Golf Improvements

The golf courses and their use play a vital role within the parks system. To ensure that the benefits of the golf courses are maximized, several improvements need to be implemented. Profitability of the courses also needs to be ensured. As mentioned previously in this plan, golf is an indispensable asset to the community and businesses looking to relocate to the City. Without this asset, many businesses would not consider locating in Terre Haute.

Goal: Educate stakeholders and the public on the value of parks.

Most residents understand that Terre Haute has a strong park system, but few realize the depth to which the park system contributes to the quality of their daily lives. The parks system needs more effective promotion. Events such as the recommended "lunch for parks" will help with this, as would improved focus on the value of parks during media coverage.



the park system

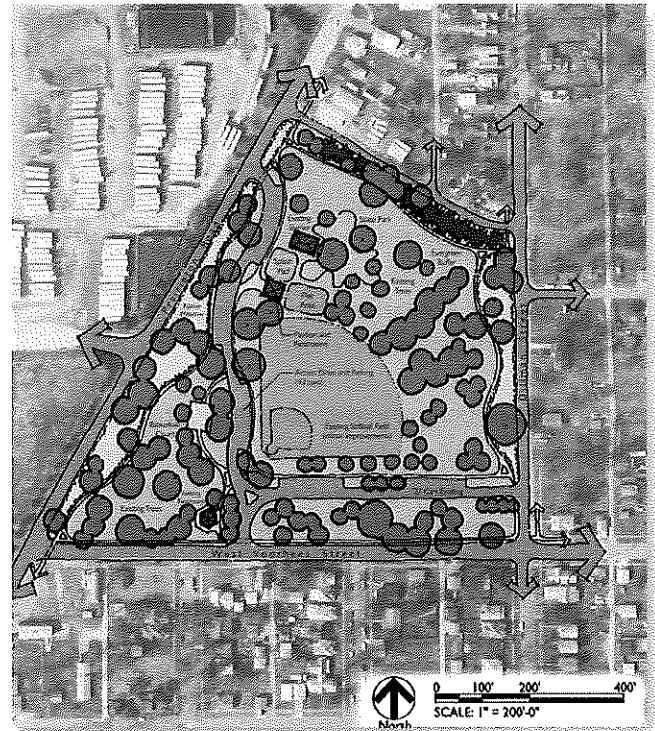
CONCEPTUAL PARK PLANS

CONCEPTUAL PARK PLANS

During the 2009-2013 Plan, several parks were identified as locations where more significant improvements were to occur during the term of this plan. To assist in the planning of improvements at these locations, conceptual park plans were provided for each of the park facilities. These plans were intended to provide one concept of how the park can be updated to accommodate the improvements being proposed at the park. They are not intended as a final plan, but rather to provide a simple visual representation that can be used to explain to the public, granting agencies, and city leaders what the improvements could look like. Because the recommendations are still relevant, these concept plans have again been included in this document.

Conceptual park plans were developed for the following locations:

- Voorhees Park: The closing of Westin Paper (thus eliminating odor issues that have been historically associated with the park) and the addition of a skate park offers the opportunity to revisit the park plan. Plans include a new splash pad to replace the old pool, removal of the pool house, a new playground, and incorporation of walking paths into the plan.
- Dobbs Park: Replacement of the dilapidated maintenance area has long been a park goal. With the transfer of property at 17 Acres Park to the park department, the opportunity now exists to move the Dobbs Park maintenance area off site and replace it with lawn and native grass plantings. The parking entrance would also be reconfigured to provide better access to the shelters, museum, nature center and playground.



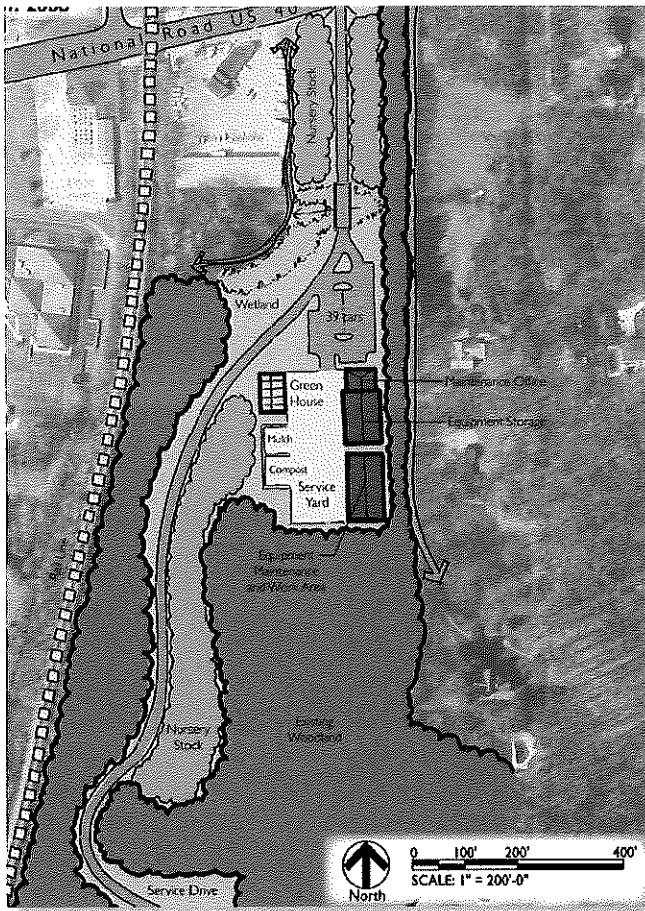
Voorhees Park Conceptual Plan



Dobbs Park Nature Center

the park system

CONCEPTUAL PARK PLANS



17 Acres Conceptual Plan

- **Brittlebank Park:** This plan is proposed as a model for redevelopment of underutilized neighborhood parks. By providing parking, trails, shelters, soccer fields and public restrooms, this park can be transformed into a vibrant facility that can lead to redevelopment of the surrounding community. Pickleball courts have recently been provided.
- **17 Acres Park:** Land for this park has been transferred from the City to the parks department to allow development of a sustainable maintenance facility for the department. The facility is directly adjacent to Deming Park, and provides a central location to maintain most City parks. Facilities to be provided would include maintenance buildings, nursery plantings, a greenhouse, and mulching/composting areas.

Drawings and additional summaries of each of these plans can be found in the following Park System sections of this plan.

In addition to developing a select number of Concept Plans, the team has met in Terre Haute on several occasions and collected information and reviewed existing facilities with various staff. From these visits, we have developed the facility inventory, analysis, and recommendations outlined in the Park System section that follows.

THE PARK SYSTEM CENTRAL DISTRICT



the park system: central district

FAIRBANKS PARK

FAIRBANKS PARK

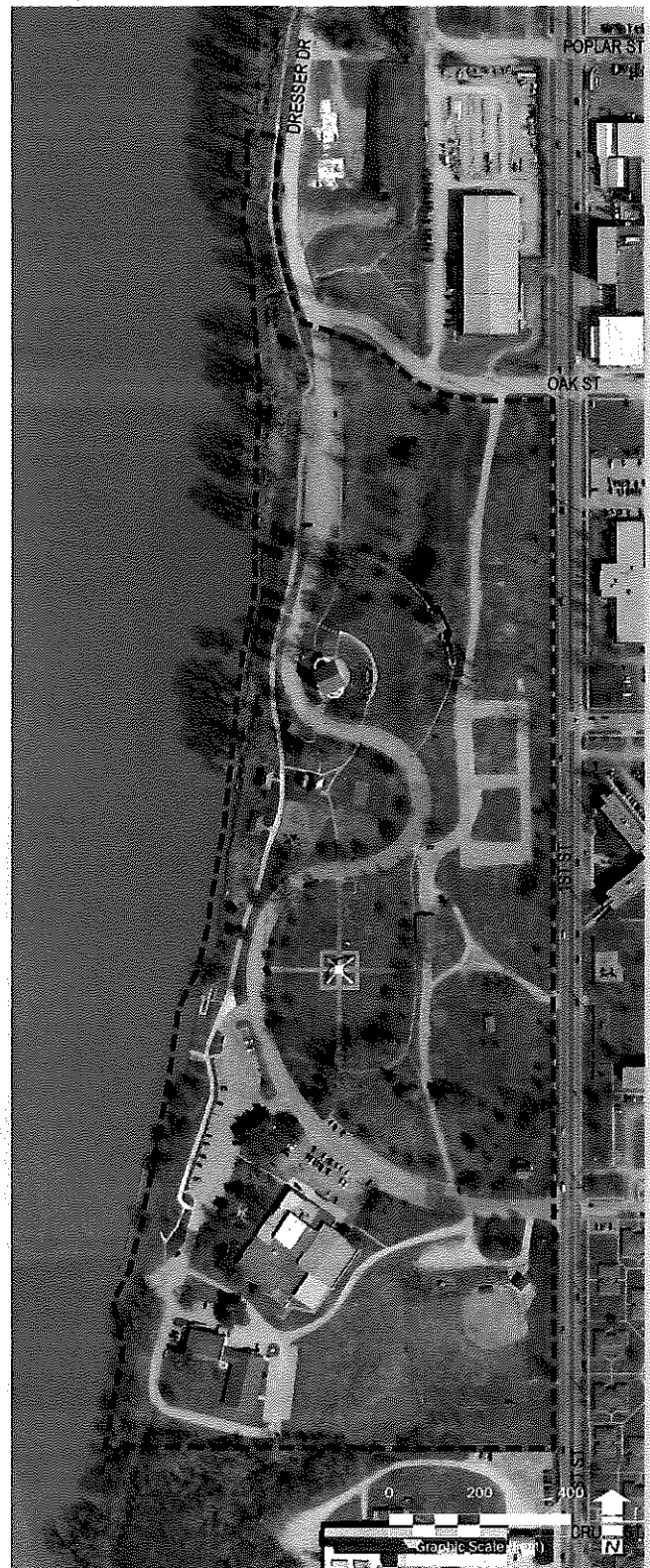
• 48 Acres • 625 Dresser Drive

CONTEXT

Fairbanks Park is an incredible asset to the city of Terre Haute. The park is located south of downtown and is the only park in Terre Haute along the Wabash River. The government center is north of the park and Indiana State University is four blocks away. The Wabash River bordering the west edge and the urban setting characterizes Fairbanks Park.

Fairbanks Park is a popular regional destination. A number of festivals are hosted within the park each year. The boat ramp is one of two public access sites to the Wabash River within Vigo County. Development of a Wabash River Greenway is an initiative that provides great potential for Fairbanks Park. Unique facilities within the park include the amphitheater, Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza, and Paul Dresser home, and a linear trail along the river. The YMCA's facilities and a softball field leased to the Terre Haute Softball League are within the park and attract many additional users. Park offices are also located on-site.

Additionally, Art Spaces Inc. is planning to install a new sculpture and improved landscaping around the historic Paul Dresser home to commemorate the famous composer. Art Spaces is also spearheading a planning effort called 'Turn to the River' that will study the ways in which public art and design can play a role in reconnecting downtown Terre Haute with the Wabash River. The study area includes Fairbanks Park and the Government campus downtown and is scheduled to conclude in June 2014. Though the study is ongoing, the Parks Department looks forward to the ways in which Fairbanks Park may help support this goal.



the park system: central district

FAIRBANKS PARK



Softball Fields

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground is insufficient for such a high profile park. Play surfacing is not accessible.

The existing trail along the river is in good condition and is wide enough to function as a multi-use trail. Trail extensions are planned to connect this segment with the National Road Heritage Trail to the north. Future trail extensions are planned to the south.

The park contains one restroom building with separate men's and women's facilities in fair condition. The restroom is accessible.

The Barkley softball field is well-maintained, and is used for league play. It contains restrooms, concessions and grandstands for softball users. It has a good brick dust infield, is lighted, and has a good backstop and fencing. It is the best field in the park system. The parking lot is pea gravel.

Shelters throughout the park are in good condition. Some concrete pads have been added under single-table shelters along the greenway to reduce maintenance. Additional pads should be added.

The park contains one gazebo that is in good condition. Parking is adequate throughout the park. Accessible striping, signage and routes are in need of improvement in most parking areas. The pavement and curbing on the main park drive is in good condition. The newly paved asphalt service drive, paralleling First Street serves as an exhibit and vendor space during festivals. The gravel drive should be paved to provide improved conditions for festival goers.

The fountain workings have been abandoned and turned into a planter area. This area needs to be redesigned to serve as another park anchor.

The fishing pier is in poor condition but is accessible.



Park Shelters



the park system: central district

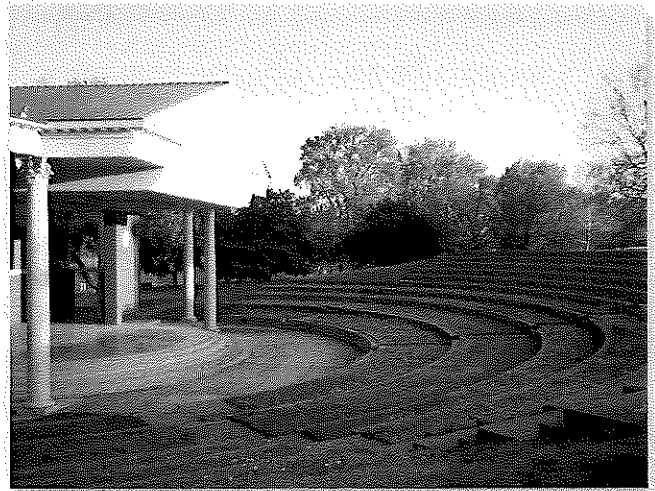
FAIRBANKS PARK

The boat ramp is in fair condition. The boat trailer parking at the top of the ramp is adequate for current use. The boat dock provides mooring for 6-8 boats and is in good condition. The docks are not accessible.

The amphitheater is ideal for public performances and is currently well utilized by community groups.

A new art installation titled Watermark Landing has been installed along the riverfront by Watermark. The art installation is in good condition and serves to commemorate the Wabash River.

The Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza defines the seating area at the amphitheater and is architecturally compatible. This historic brick structure and plaza are in poor condition and need to be restored. The structure, roof and brick pavement are in need of extensive repair. The Paul Dresser Memorial Home is the childhood home of the author of the state song "On the Banks of the Wabash." The home is designated on the National Register of Historic Places and is maintained by the Vigo County Historical Society.



Amphitheater



Paul Dresser Memorial Home



Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza



Brick work in need of repair

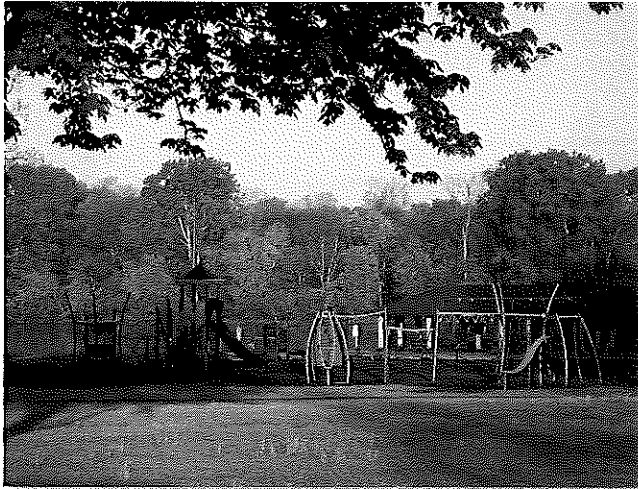
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the park system: central district

FAIRBANKS PARK



Arch Sculpture and Fountain Area



Playground

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Re-work the fountain area to serve as another park attraction. *no*
- Add dog park *fair*
- Add more public art *Art Spaces did*

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace playground safety surfacing
- Provide regional playground similar to Oakley Playground at Deming Park *no*
- Define park edges with additional landscaping *no*
- Provide additional boat and trailer parking
- Provide accessible route to boat docks and make accessibility improvements to docks
- Replace fishing pier
- Expand promotion and marketing of facilities and events
- Encourage active use of Dresser Home *no*
- Enhance park entrances and signage
- Provide accessible parking improvements
- Work with Art Spaces to place a significant sculpture at the appropriate location within the park. *yes*
- Prepare park master plan - integrate plan with greater riverfront initiative
- Renovate Chauncey Rose Memorial Plaza *no*
- Add ice rink *no*
- Support 'Turn to the River' goals.
- Support enhancement of the Paul Dresser Memorial home through sculpture and landscape installation. *yes*



the park system: central district

CURTIS GILBERT PARK

CURTIS GILBERT PARK

• 3.85 Acres • 1431 Wabash Avenue

CONTEXT

Gilbert Park is an urban park located east of downtown along Wabash Avenue. The park is primarily a passive park. Facilities include a playground, restrooms, shelters, sidewalks, a limestone sculpture and a small plaza. Mature trees provide shade throughout the park. The general condition of the park is good, but many of the facilities are in need of repair or replacement. One unique feature in the park is the cul-de-sac on the south side of the park. This provides a good opportunity for neighborhood access.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment was replaced in 2009 and is in good condition. Currently there is no accessible route or accessible safety surfacing.

The half court basketball court is in good condition. There is not a pedestrian connection to the court.

One structure contains separate men's and women's facilities that are not accessible. The restroom structure soffit and roof needs to be repaired.

The two shelters are in good condition. One shelter does not have an accessible connection to the walk.

On-street parking is available along the east and west side of the park. Designated accessible parking spaces should be provided at the cul-de-sac.

Limestone sculpture in the northwest corner of the park titled Composite House for Terre Haute is in good shape.

With its location on Wabash Avenue at the north end of the downtown commercial district, the park affords the opportunity to become integrated with downtown revitalization plans. Upgrades to the park to better accommodate concerts and events should be considered.



the park system: central district

CURTIS GILBERT PARK



Playground

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018) ^{AD}

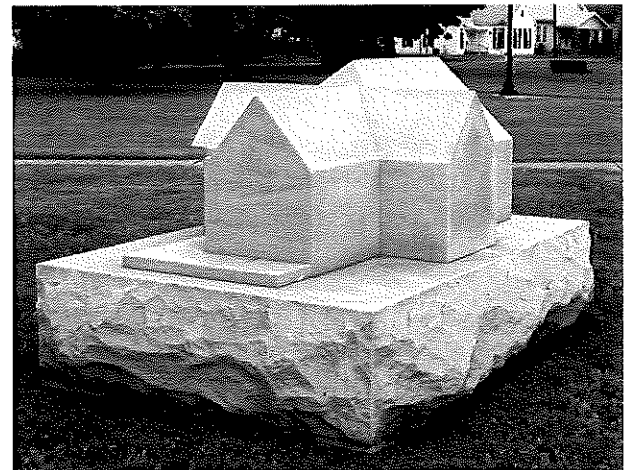
- Upgrade park to accommodate downtown festivals and events.

LONG TERM GOALS ^{AD}

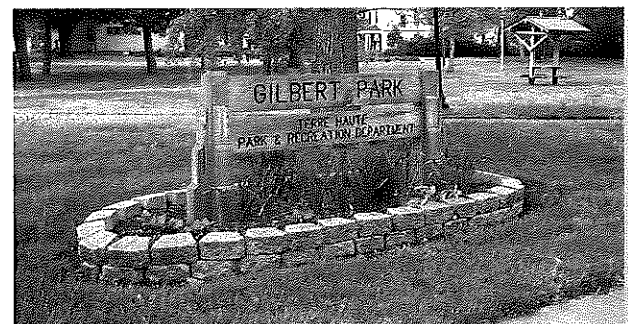
- Provide increased accessibility to and lighting of sculpture
- Remove basketball court curb
- Provide trail connection to Heritage Trail
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Designate on-street accessible parking spaces
- Replace safety surfacing around playground.



Shelter and Pathway



Composite House for Terre Haute Sculpture
Source: Art Spaces Inc.



Park Sign



the park system: central district

HERZ-ROSE PARK

HERZ-ROSE PARK

• 5.18 Acres • 1515 Locust Street

CONTEXT

Herz-Rose Park is a neighborhood park near ISU. Facilities within the park include a restroom/shelter building, a playground, and a full basketball court. There are no internal park walkways. Existing trees and landscaping are minimal. The majority of the park is open lawn. The National Road Heritage Trail is two blocks south of Herz-Rose Park. A direct trail connection would bring more people to the park. The park is underdeveloped and in need of improvement to better serve the surrounding neighborhood.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is in good condition. The surfacing does not meet safety standards and should be replaced. Currently there is no accessible route or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets.

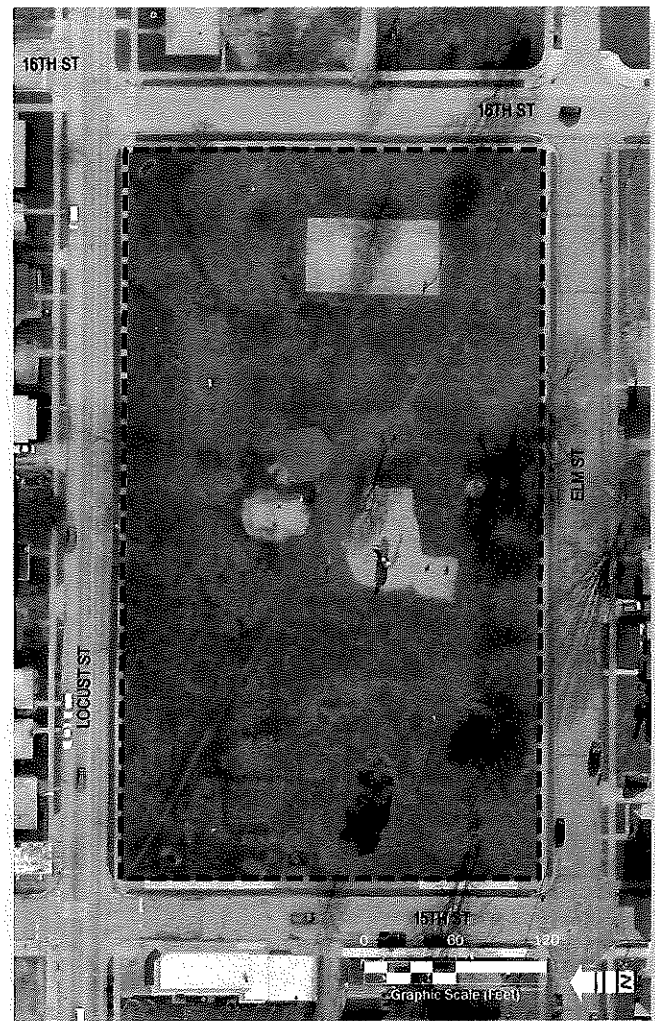
The overall park is compact with excellent access from the surrounding streets. Internal drives are not required. On-street accessible parking spaces should be delineated.

The full basketball court is in good condition. There is not a pedestrian connection to the court.

One structure provides separate men's and women's facilities. The facility should be ADA accessible with the addition of pedestrian walkways connecting to park destinations. Building is also a picnic shelter in good condition.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace playground safety surfacing
- Provide trail connection to Heritage Trail
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Designate on-street accessible parking spaces

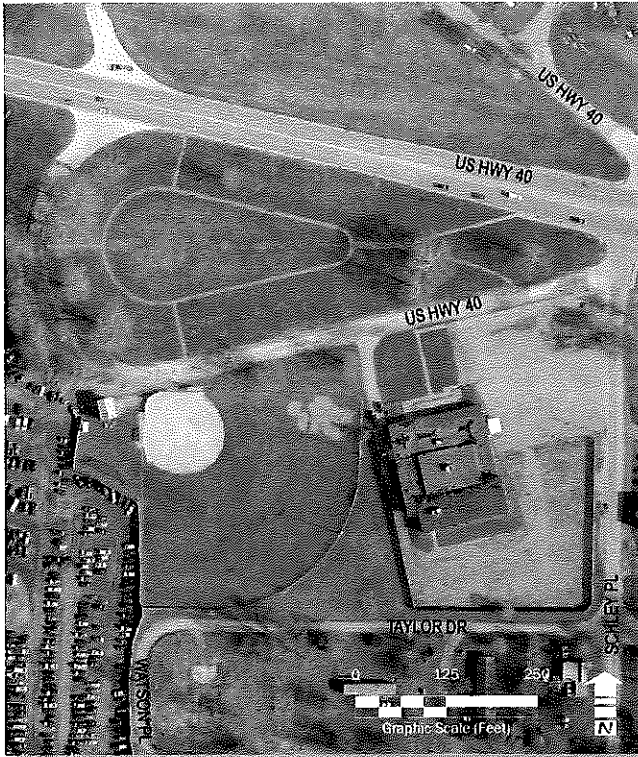


Playground and Restrooms



the park system: central district

PAUL DRESSER MEMORIAL PARK



PAUL DRESSER MEMORIAL PARK

• 5.55 Acres • US 40 west of Wabash River

CONTEXT

Paul Dresser Memorial Park is a park with limited use located west of the Wabash River and outside of Terre Haute. The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department owns and maintains the facility but few people use it or know that the park exists. Although it fronts US 40, this park is in a remote location and is difficult to police and monitor. The site previously included an adult softball field, but it has been removed.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Because there are no longer built facilities at this park, the City and the Parks Department should evaluate the long term vision for this site. This could include serving as part of the western gateway into Terre Haute or becoming part of the proposed riverfront redevelopment initiative. The Vigo County Parks may have interest in utilizing the site as part of its adjacent wetlands.

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

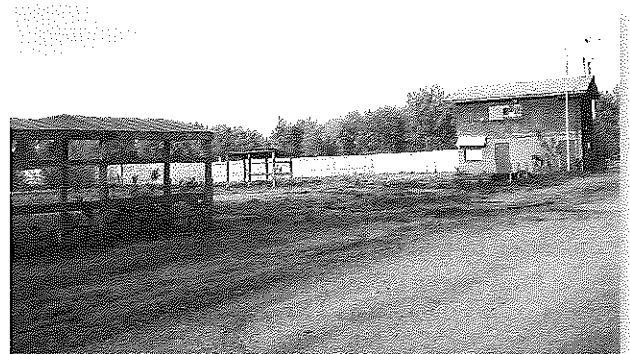
- Develop long term vision for this site.



Unused Open Space



Abandoned Softball Field



Abandoned Concessions Building

the park system: central district

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

• 22 Acres • Wabash Avenue and Brown Avenue

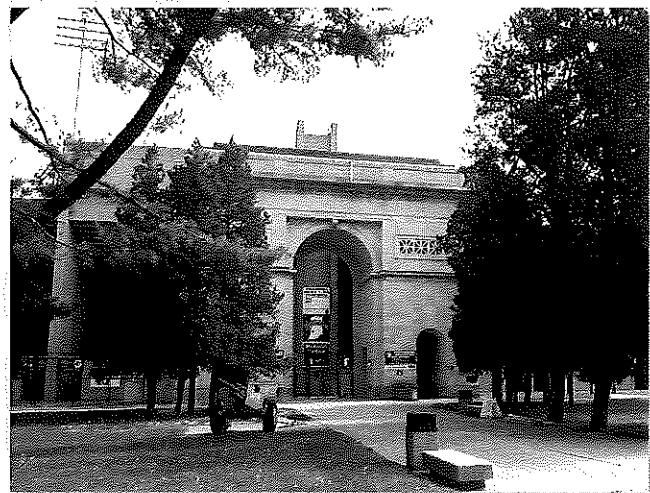
CONTEXT

Veterans Memorial Park is a 22-acre parcel of land containing the ISU Football Stadium. This parkland is owned by Vigo County and leased to Indiana State University and the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department. The park was renamed to the current name in May, 2013. ISU maintains and operates the portion of the site containing the stadium and parking to the corner of Wabash and Brown Avenue. The "Indiana Mile," a one-mile interpretive loop trail in the shape of Indiana was constructed in 2004. New workout equipment was added along the trail in 2010. The National Road Heritage Trail runs along the perimeter of the park. ISU intends to construct a new stadium on campus in the future. Coincident with the stadium move, THPD should review the property leases and negotiate transfer of the land to THPD. Currently the parks department maintains the ground outside of the stadium area. This is a highly visible park fronting on Wabash Avenue (US 40) adjacent to the Wabash Heritage Trail and Brown Avenue. A master plan for this facility should be developed to guide the redevelopment of this high profile park property.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Access to the site is available from Wabash Avenue and Brown Avenue. Parking is somewhat limited with parking areas located along Wabash Avenue and northwest of the stadium. A total of approximately 100 parking spaces are available. Most students coming to football games shuttle from the ISU campus.

This land formerly incorporated a 9-hole golf course and prior to that contained a baseball stadium that Babe Ruth played in. The course has since been abandoned. There have been few improvements made to the site and portions of the golf course and baseball stadium can still be identified.



Memorial Stadium Entrance

the park system: central district

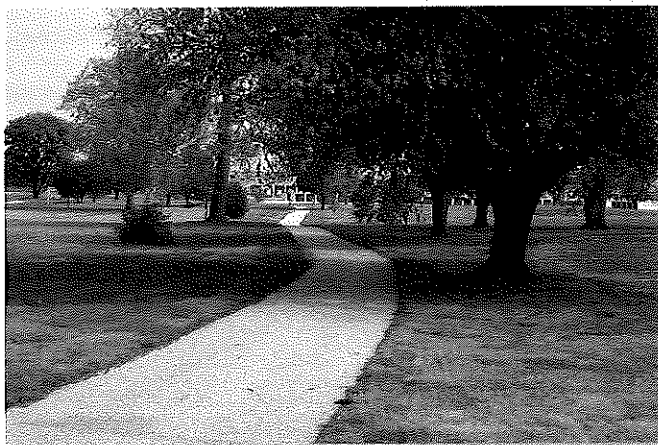
MEMORIAL GROUNDS



TREE Sculpture
Source: Art Spaces Inc.



Memorial Stadium



Indiana Mile trail system

The site also contains a mile long trail called the 'Indiana Mile'. The trail surrounds the stadium and is laid out in the shape of Indiana. 101 native trees of Indiana are planted along the length of the trail. All the trees have not yet been located and the tree planting is an ongoing project through TREES Inc.

In addition to the trail, a large metal sculpture titled TREE also graces the park, visible from Wabash Avenue. The same artist who created the TREE sculpture also created tree identification markers to line the Indiana Mile. The artwork was made possible through Art Spaces, Inc.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Negotiate land transfer to the City with ISU and Vigo County
- Investigate feasibility of a regional athletics complex
- Prepare park master plan ✓ yes
- Repaint TREE sculpture ✓ yes
- Support continuing tree installation with TREES Inc. along the Indiana Mile trail. ✓ yes



the park system: central district

THOMPSON PARK

THOMPSON PARK

• 4.73 Acres • 17th Street and Oak Street

CONTEXT

Thompson Park is a neighborhood park with limited recreation activities. Mature broadleaf trees are scattered throughout the park. There are no walkways in the park or perimeter sidewalks. Additional recreational activities would increase the use of this park. On-street parking is available on the perimeter streets.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

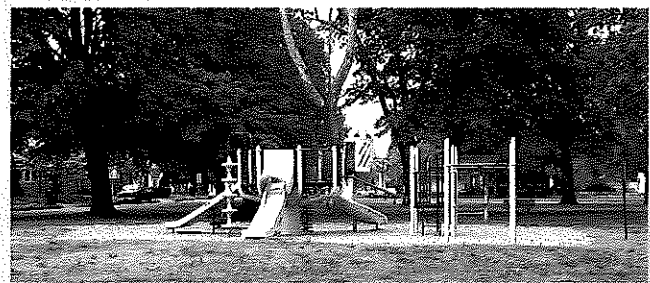
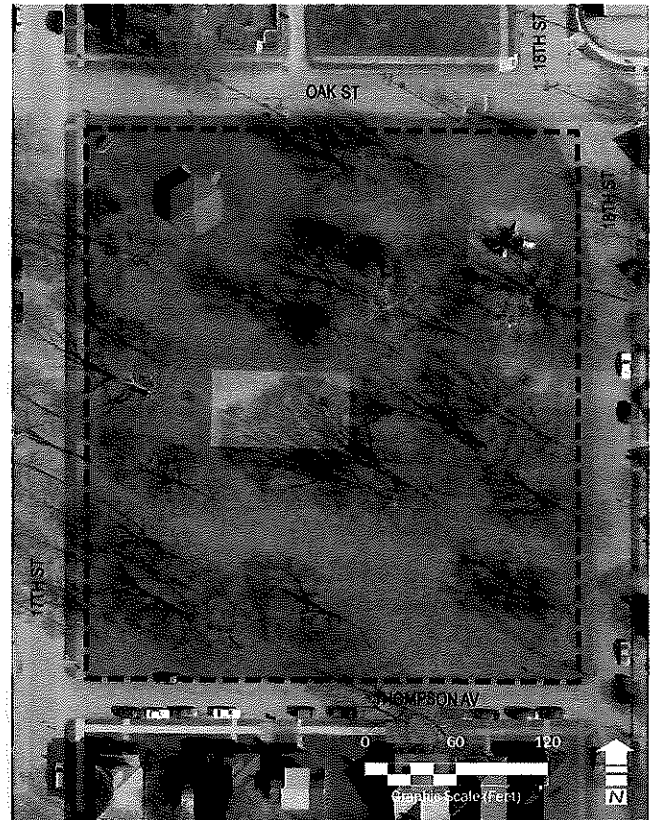
The playground equipment is fairly new and in good condition. The pea gravel surfacing should be replaced. Currently there are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets and other park destinations.

The park contains one restroom structure with separate men and women's facilities in good condition; the structure also serves as a shelter.

The one full basketball court is in good condition. The court is located in the center of the park, providing poor visibility for safety.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Replace playground safety surfacing
- Designate on-street accessible parking space
- Improve existing softball field and facilities



Playground



Shelter and Restrooms

the park system: central district

CENTRAL DISTRICT BLOCK PARKS



Centennial Park

CENTENNIAL PARK

• .93 Acres • 25th Street and National Road Heritage Trail

CONTEXT

Centennial Park was constructed in 2004 as a public service by the local Rotary Clubs. The parkland and improvements will be owned and maintained by the Rotary Club for ten years after which they will be deeded to the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Department. The park department is currently responsible for lawn maintenance in the park. The park contains a shelter, benches and landscaping. Four on-street parking spaces are provided. This park functions as a block park as well as a trailhead for the National Road heritage Trail.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Benches, signage and trees are in good condition. Pavement extensions to the shelter from the trail would improve the accessibility of these elements.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide accessible path to shelter and benches

MD



the park system: central district

CENTRAL DISTRICT BLOCK PARKS

GRAHAM PARK

• .96 Acres • Harrison Street and 17th Street

CONTEXT

Graham Park is a block park on the south side of Terre Haute. The mature shade trees throughout the park are the most distinguishing feature of the park. The playground is the only recreational facility in the park. Additional attractions within the park are needed to better serve the surrounding neighborhood.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. Currently there is no accessible route or safety surfacing. There is one relatively small play feature all other play equipment needs to be replaced.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace playground and safety surfacing
- Provide benches
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Construct new ½ basketball court
- Designate on-street accessible parking space



Graham Park



Graham Park Playground

the park system: central district

CENTRAL DISTRICT BLOCK PARKS



Oakley Park Playground

OAKLEY PARK

• .5 Acres • College Street and 8th Street

CONTEXT

Oakley Park is a small block park west of Fire Station #2. The park was built on the site of the former Cruft Elementary School. The park contains play equipment and a short basketball court. Accessibility improvements are needed throughout the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is relatively new and in good condition. Safety surfacing needs to be replaced and an accessible route provided to the play equipment.

The short basketball court is in good condition. There are no walkways connecting to the court.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace playground and safety surfacing
- Provide benches
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Construct new 1/2 basketball court
- Designate on-street accessible parking space



Oakley Park Sign



JOHN M. HANLEY, JR. MEMORIAL PARK

• .3 Acres • First Street, Hulman Street, and SR 63

CONTEXT

Hanley Park is a traffic island primarily valued for aesthetic purposes. The park was created in 1992 as a memorial to a man who was an activist for the beautification of the Southwest Industrial corridor. This park is a tribute to his efforts. The park has limited recreational value.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Park features include a flag pole, landscaping and park sign which are in good condition. Landscape maintenance is not a cost effective use of park department resource.

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with local businesses



John M. Hanley, Jr. Memorial Park



Ohio Boulevard

OHIO BOULEVARD

• 46.1 Acres • 19th Street to Fruitridge Avenue

CONTEXT

Broadleaf tree lined Ohio Boulevard has a powerful visual impact. Ohio Boulevard was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1989 and has many historic homes. Ohio Boulevard serves as the formal entry to the crown jewel of the park system, Deming Park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The western end of the boulevard is accentuated with historic limestone columns and walls. Broadleaf trees lining the boulevard provide a consistent canopy. There are expansive lawn areas in the boulevard.

Bike lanes have recently been added to the boulevard. Additional landscaping should be provided at the limestone feature at the western terminus. There is a landscaped fountain at one of the midpoint intersections.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Improve crosswalks at intersections



the park system: central district

CENTRAL DISTRICT BLOCK PARKS

NATIONAL ROAD HERITAGE TRAIL

• Approximately 64 Acres • Twigg Rest Area to ISU

CONTEXT

The development of the National Road Heritage Trail within the last five years has provided the biggest boost to park and recreation opportunities in Terre Haute in many years. With completion of Phase 2 in 2004 the trail now extends for approximately 6.5 miles from the Twigg Rest Area to the Indiana State University campus downtown. The success of the trail has encouraged economic development in several locations and the desire by many people to extend the trail to their neighborhood. The success of the trail and maintenance and operations requirements have pointed to the need for a minimum of two maintenance people dedicated to taking care of the trail and trailhead facilities.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The National Road Heritage Trail provides 6.5 miles of paved multi-use trail with very good signing and controls at street intersections. The majority of the trail length occurs along the abandoned National Road corridor and has few conflicts with vehicular intersections. There is a good supply of benches and litter receptacles scattered along the trail. There are several block parks and trailhead facilities along the trail with additional amenities that are described separately.



National Road Heritage Trail near
Veterans Memorial Park



National Road Heritage Trail near 25th Street

the park system: central district

CENTRAL DISTRICT BLOCK PARKS

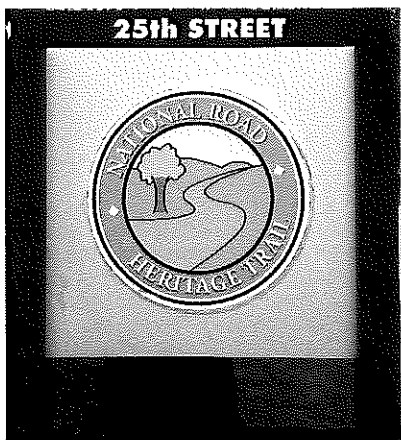


National Road Heritage Trail near Jones Trailhead

The trail provides an excellent linear open space element that provides connections and linkages to a large number of Terre Haute parks, schools, neighborhoods and community destinations. Additional landscaping should be provided to increase screening of undesirable views along some segments of the trail.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Development pavement repairs and replacement plan.



THE PARK SYSTEM NORTH DISTRICT



the park system: north district

COLLETT PARK

COLLETT PARK

• 21.1 Acres • 7th Street and Maple Avenue

CONTEXT

Collett Park is the oldest park in Terre Haute. The park was founded in 1883 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The surrounding neighborhood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This unique setting is a large part of the charm of Collett Park.

Activities within Collett Park are primarily passive. Facilities include the Collett Park Pavilion, the Wabash Valley Horse Shoe Club, tennis courts, soccer fields, and a fitness trail. The mature trees throughout the park add to the appeal.

A master plan was completed in April, 2004. This detailed document incorporates the history of the park, plans for renovation, and identifies phases and estimated costs.

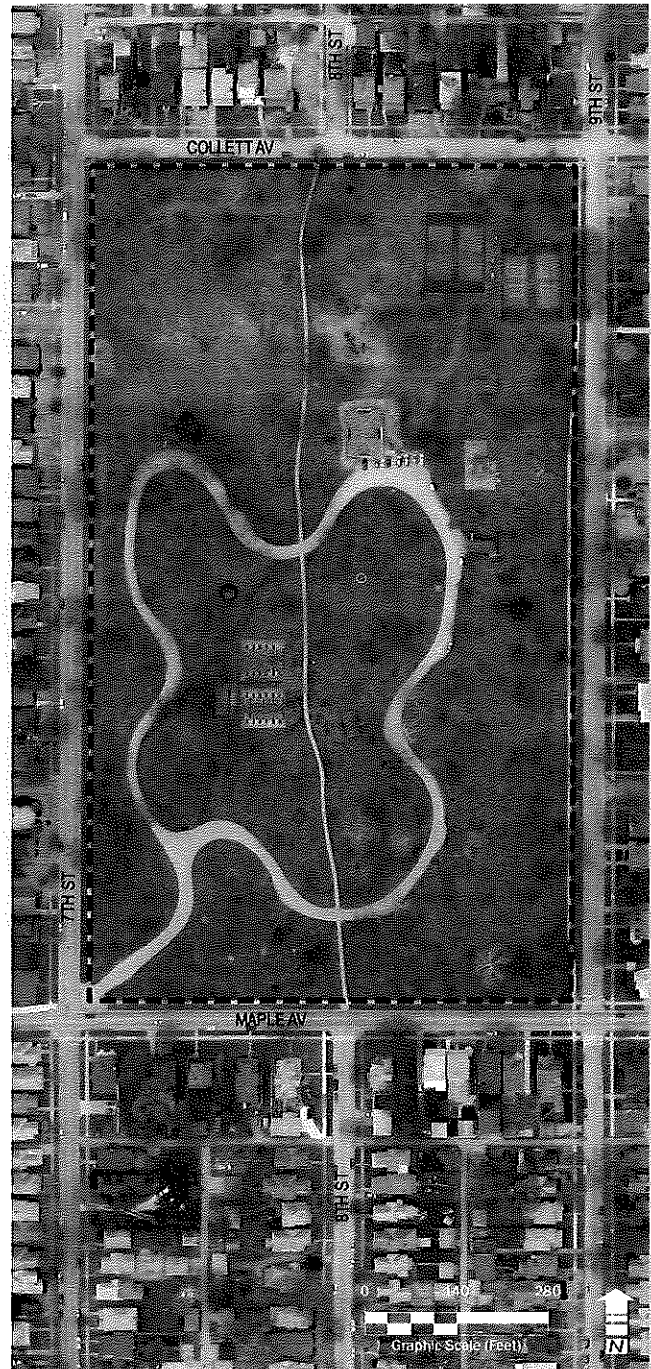
INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is good to fair. Improvements are needed. Currently there is no ADA accessible route or accessible safety surfacing.

Currently the only access is a concrete sidewalk that bisects the park north to south. It is in good condition, but does not match the character of the park. Pedestrian circulation throughout the park relies heavily on vehicular routes.

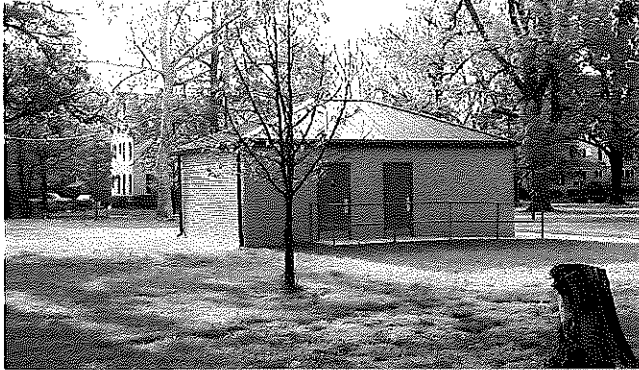
Improvements to pedestrian circulation throughout the park are recommended.

Investment has been made into the historic pavilion at the site.



the park system: north district

COLLETT PARK



Accessible Restrooms

Collett Park contains a new accessible restroom building.

The lighted courts are in good condition and are well used. The pathway to the courts is in poor condition.

Four shelters throughout the park, all in good condition. Pedestrian connections are needed at some shelters. There is one gazebo which is in good condition. There is no accessible route to the gazebo. Multiple covered benches throughout the park are in moderate to poor condition. Covered benches are of limited recreational value and should be replaced with standard benches as replacement is needed.



Park Shelter

A fitness trail with placards is in good condition. The trail is near the playground along the sidewalk that bisects the park.

Parking is insufficient for the number of people driving to the park at peak times. Many park users are residents of the adjacent neighborhood that walk to the park, reducing the need for parking. Accessible parking striping, signage and accessible routes are in need of improvement in most parking areas.

The road surface is in good condition. The vehicular park entrance is a traffic hazard and should be relocated.



Fitness Trail Signage



the park system: north district

COLLETT PARK

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Construct new park entrance/abandon existing entrance

LONG TERM GOALS

- Construct parking along loop drive
- Replace playground safety surfacing *no*
- Replace covered benches *no*
- Replace plantings in park *no*
- Construct loop trail and accessible paths *no*
- Add formal gardens and fountain *no*
- Construct bandstand *no*
- New playground equipment *no*
- New perimeter sidewalks and lighting *no*



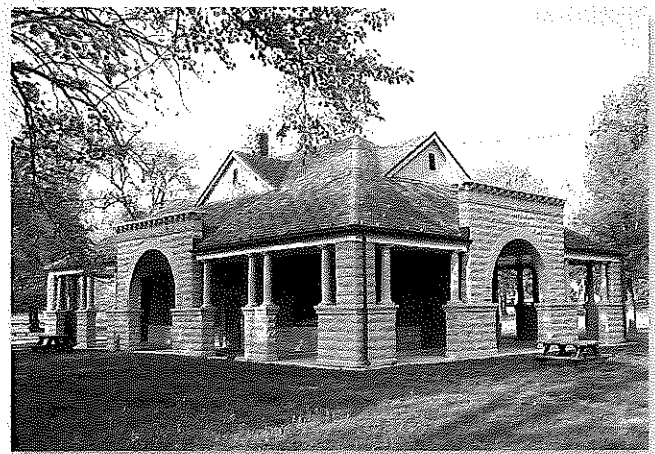
Main Park Entrance



Sidewalk that bisects the Park



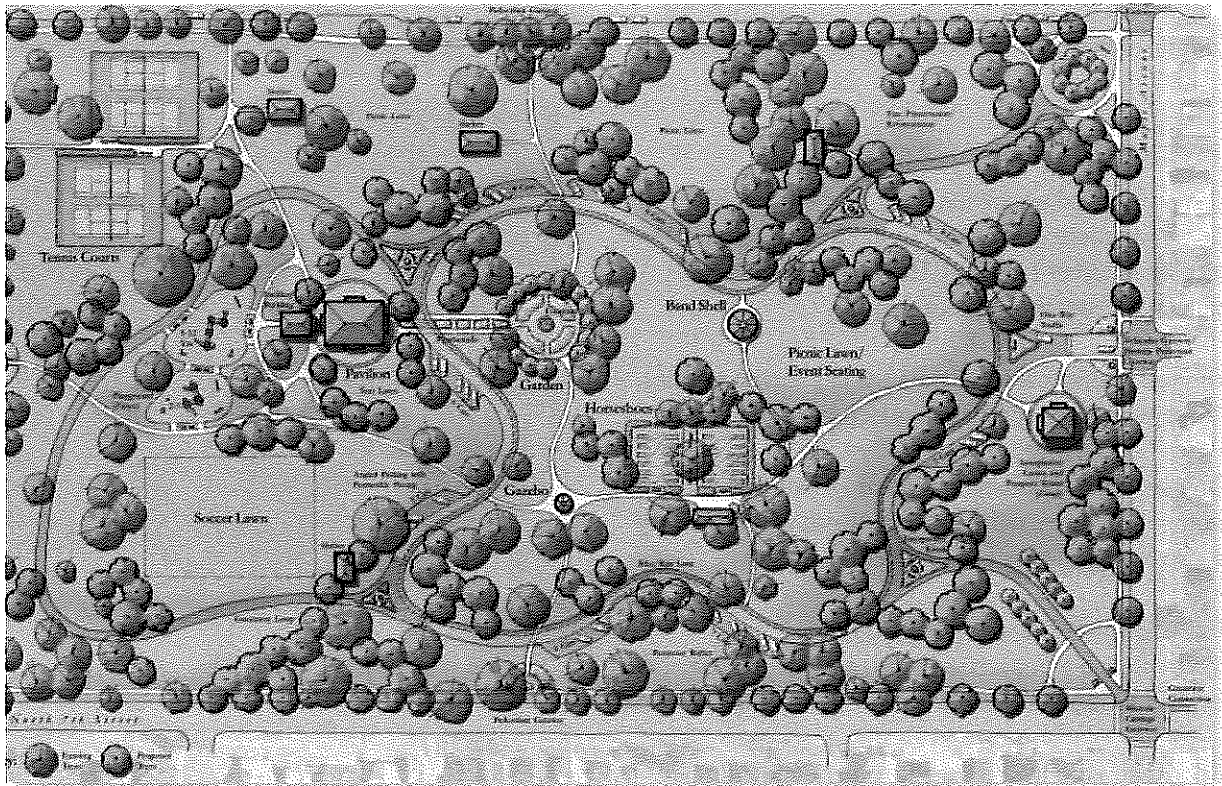
Playground



Historic Pavilion

the park system: north district

COLLETT PARK



Site Master Plan: 2004

the park system: north district

COY PARK

COY PARK

• 4.5 Acres • 16th Street and Barbour Avenue

CONTEXT

Coy Park is an underutilized park. Facilities within the park are minimal and include a restroom/shelter building and an outdated playground. Existing trees are minimal throughout most of the park. The majority of the park is open lawn. The potential for additional development including playing fields is great. There is not any off-street parking for the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is in poor condition. Currently there is no ADA accessible route or accessible safety surfacing. The condition of this equipment requires replacement.

The half court basketball court is in good condition. There is not a pedestrian connection to the court.

One structure containing separate men's and women's facilities, neither are accessible. The building is also a picnic shelter in good condition.

The two shelters are in good condition. Both shelters need a pedestrian route connecting to existing walks along streets.

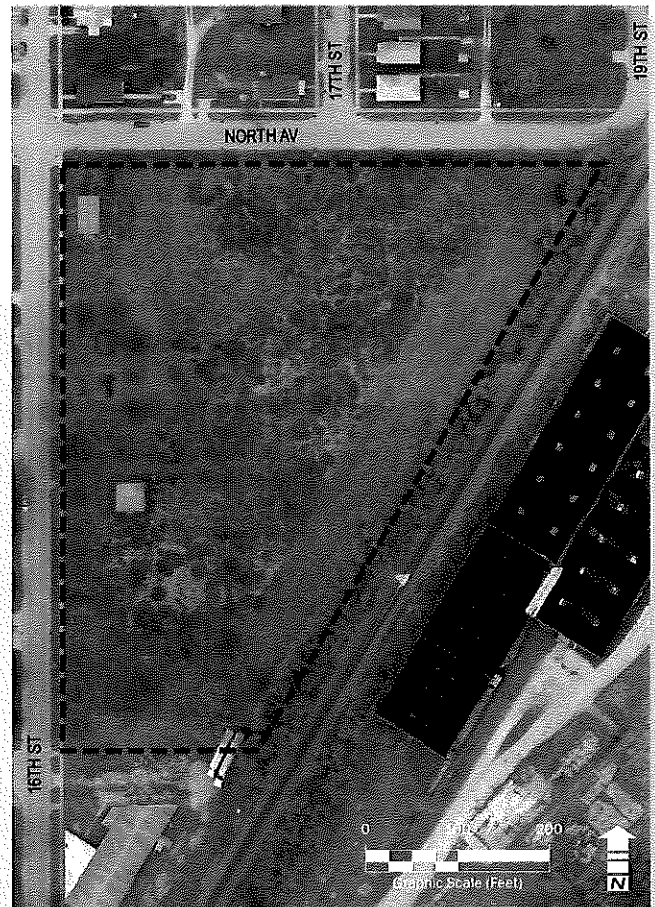
Off street parking convenient to park activities needs to be provided, with accessible routes to the activities.

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Consider reducing usable acreage and eliminate mowing through meadow installation

LONG TERM GOALS

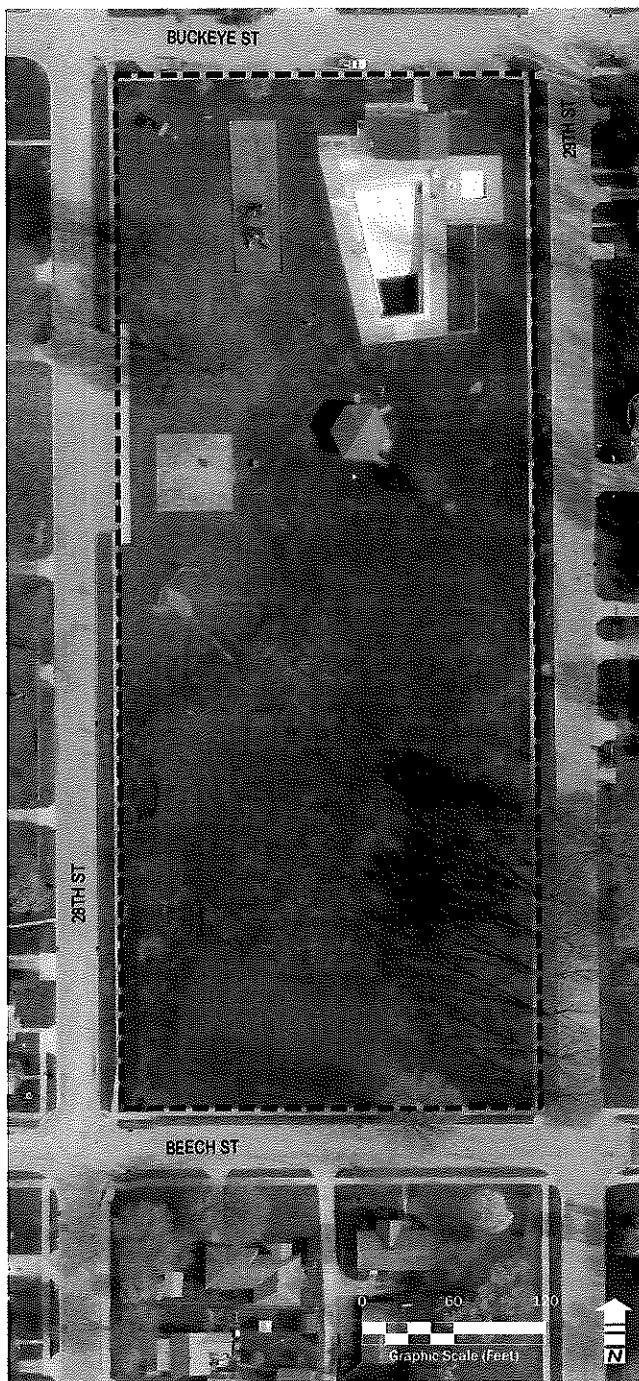
- Provide off-street parking
- Provide ADA improvements at restroom
- Investigate need for off-street parking
- Construct loop path and accessible paths



Coy Park Open Lawn

the park system: north district

SHERIDAN PARK



SHERIDAN PARK

• 6.5 Acres • 28th Street and Ash Street

CONTEXT

Until 2012, Sheridan Park featured a public swimming pool. Besides the pool, there is playground equipment, half-court basketball, a baseball backstop and significant open space.

With the closing of the pool, there is interest in re-envisioning the future of this park. A new splash pad is expected to be the centerpiece of a park revitalization plan. Additional walks and playground facilities may also be needed.

Because the pool has been critical to the identity and success of this neighborhood, the Parks department should not delay in developing and implementing the park revitalization plan. Without investment in this park, the City could see a serious decline in the surrounding neighborhood in a few short years.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is in good condition. The safety surfacing needs to be replaced. Currently there are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to streets and park destinations.

The half basketball court is in moderate condition.

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Develop/implement long term vision for this park.
- Construct splash pad



Sheridan Park



HWC
ENGINEERING

the park system: north district

SPENCER F. BALL PARK

SPENCER F. BALL PARK

• 9.86 Acres • 14th Street and 8th Avenue

CONTEXT

Spencer F. Ball Park is a relatively new park within the Terre Haute parks system. The park was constructed in the 1980's and is in good condition. The dominant feature of the park is the competition softball field.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is fairly new and in good condition. The pea gravel surfacing does not meet safety code and should be replaced. Currently there are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets and other park destinations. The swings are too far from the main play feature resulting in an excess of play surfacing. The playground equipment is poorly located too far from softball seating.

The park contains one restroom structure with separate men and women's facilities in good condition. The restrooms are accessible. A portion of the building is used for storage. The restrooms are well lighted with natural light.

The basketball area is in good condition. There is one full court; two 1/2 courts and the courts are lighted.

The park contains two lighted tennis courts in fair condition.

The plaza area is adjacent to the restroom building and seating areas. A stronger relationship to an additional recreational attraction, such as the playground, would increase the use of this area. The play area is not visible from the plaza.



Plaza Area Near Concessions

the park system: north district

SPENCER F. BALL PARK



Playground



Ball Diamond



Tennis Courts

The parking is efficient and in good condition. Accessible parking striping and signage is needed. A pedestrian walkway along the parking lot connecting to other park destinations would minimize pedestrian conflicts and improve circulation. Cars are vulnerable to damage from foul balls and home runs.

A new roof was installed on the concessions building in 2012.

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Remove tennis courts

LONG TERM GOALS

- Upgrade concessions *no*
- Replace safety surfacing at playground *no*
- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park *no*
- Provide new playground near softball
- Designate accessible parking



the park system: north district

MAPLE AVENUE NATURE PARK

MAPLE AVENUE NATURE PARK

• 25 Acres • 500 Maple Avenue

CONTEXT

The City's newest park is the Maple Avenue Nature Park. Built over time between 2009-2013, the park includes a large lake, natural areas, a fishing pier, and boat dock.

The park connects to the historic Collett Park Pathway trail on Maple Avenue in front of the park. The trail connects Maple Avenue Nature Park to Collett Park.

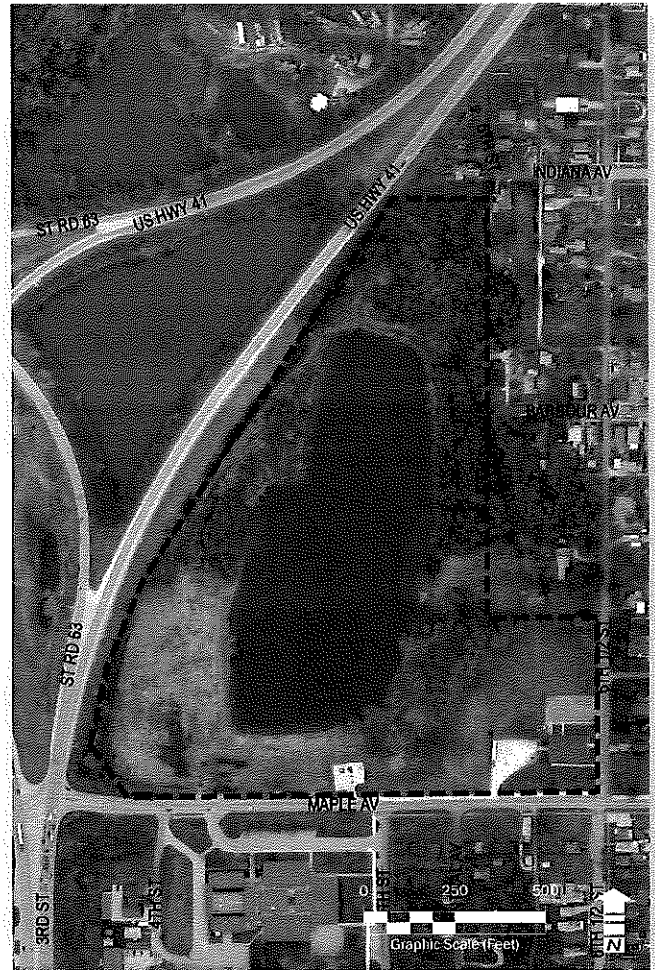
The City works with DNR to stock this pond. A key issue with the pond is preventing river water from backing up into the lake and mixing river fish with lake fish. Screens have been installed on both sides of the lake to help with this issue. While this will never be completely prevented, it should remain an ongoing, long term priority for this park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The nature park has recently expanded the parking area and now has ample amounts of parking. A boat ramp has also been installed with spaces for trailer parking. A new sign that has been installed makes it easy to find the park and reads very well.

The .6 mile concrete trail that rings the lake is an extension of the Collet Park Pathway which extends to Collet Park. The pathway is in excellent shape and is mostly shaded by tree cover. There are a few low points on the walkway that get covered with mud and can be covered by flooding when the water is high, preventing the full use of the walkway.

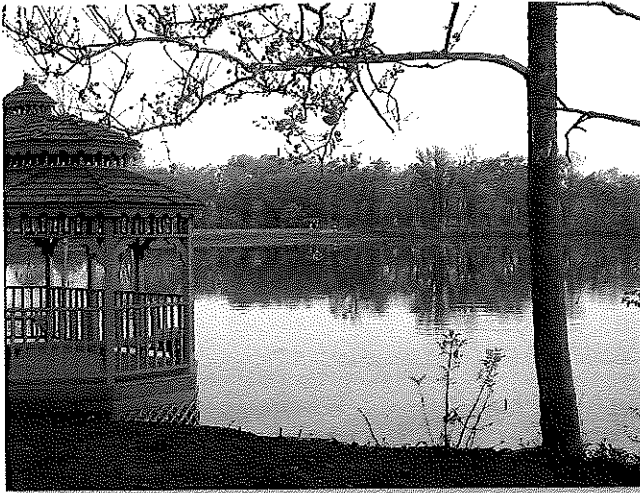
There are 5 picnic tables and small shelters along the pathway along with multiple mulched pathways and access points to the lake shore for fishing.



Maple Avenue Nature Park Sign

the park system: north district

MAPLE STREET NATURE PARK



Gazebo and Pond



Boat Ramp



Nature Trail

A small shelter/gazebo structure has been constructed on the lake edge, though there is no access to this structure. All structures are in excellent shape.

Additional trash receptacles may need to be added along the trail.

The 11 acre pond looks very clean and well stocked with fish based on the activity level in the pond.

The Ouabache Elementary School is directly across the park, which may allow for future educational opportunities within the park.

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Finish restrooms

LONG TERM GOALS

- Address the silting and depositing of mud over walkways in low spots that occurs with flooding.



Picnic Area on Edge of Pond

Additions



HWC
ENGINEERING

the park system: north district

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR PARKS

VI COTTRELL PARK

• .3 Acres • Lafayette Avenue and 1st Avenue.

CONTEXT

Vi Cottrell is a landscaped traffic island with limited park and recreation value. The park is named for a local diner owner whose diner was formerly located on the park site. There is a sidewalk along Lafayette Avenue and along 6 ½ Street but no other sidewalks. The size of this park and heavy volume of traffic on Lafayette Avenue make pedestrian access very difficult.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Benches, signage and trees are in good condition. Landscape maintenance is not a cost effective use of park department resources. A path is needed to make the benches accessible.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Explore “Adopt-a-spot” feasibility with local businesses.
- Include in master plan for Lafayette Corridor.

GOLD MEDAL PLAZA

• .3 Acres • Lafayette Ave., Maple Ave., and 13th Street

CONTEXT

Gold Medal Plaza at 12 Points Park is a landscaped traffic island with benches. Although there are benches and sidewalks pedestrian access is very difficult because three primary transportation arteries surround the park

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The park currently houses a memorial to local Olympic gold medal winners along with landscaping and seating.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Work with Art Spaces to place sculpture as plaza focal point.



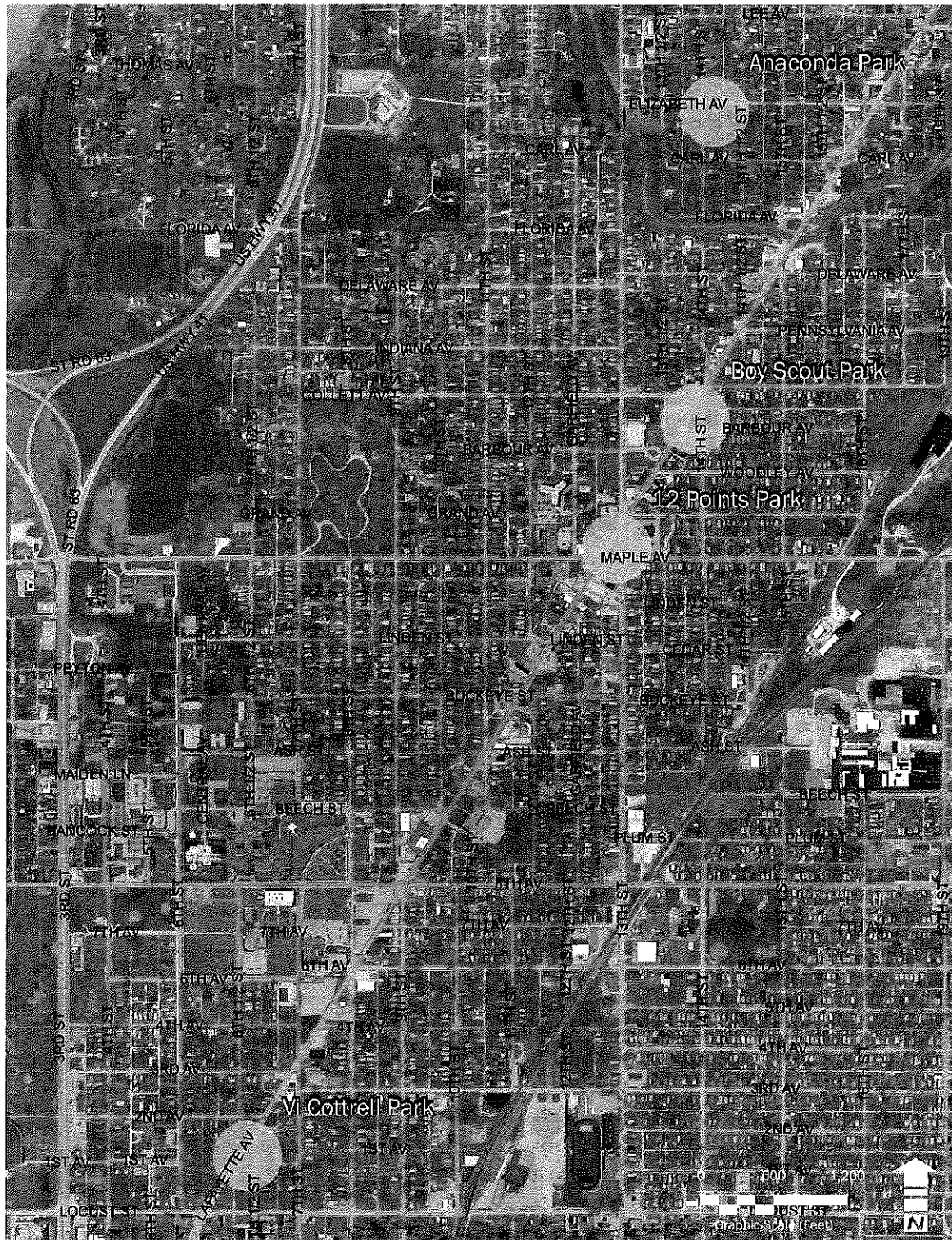
Vi Cottrell Park



Gold Medal Plaza

the park system: north district

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR PARKS



the park system: north district

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR PARKS

BOY SCOUT PARK

• .32 Acres • Lafayette Avenue and Barbour Avenue

CONTEXT

Boy Scout Park is a landscaped traffic island. There is one sidewalk along Lafayette Avenue. The nature of this park combined with very difficult access provide little park and recreation value.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Benches, signage and trees are in good condition. Landscape maintenance is not a cost effective use of department resources. The covered bench does not have a walk to it.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Include in master plan for Lafayette corridor



Boy Scout Park

ANACONDA PARK

• .5 Acres • 14th Street and Elizabeth Street

CONTEXT

Anaconda Park is a small block park. Recreational value is limited by the size of the park. Accessibility improvements are needed throughout the park. There are no walkways at the streets or within the park. The addition of walkways, benches and landscaping in addition to accessibility improvements would increase the usefulness of this park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is in poor condition. The swings are in good condition with poor surfacing. Currently there is no ADA accessible route or accessible safety surfacing at any play equipment.

The half court basketball court is in poor condition and in need of repair. There are no walkways connecting the court to other park destinations.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Assess need for improvements at this location



Anaconda Park

the park system: north district

LAFAYETTE CORRIDOR PARKS



Five Triangles Park

FIVE TRIANGLES (TERRE TOWN)

• .2 Acres • 25th Street and Lafayette Avenue

CONTEXT

The streets in Terre Haute intersect 25th Street and Lafayette Avenue at angles resulting in traffic islands that are maintained as landscaped open space. The parks department maintains the Terre Town parcel. There are no park or recreational activities provided in the islands.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The multiple traffic islands are an aesthetic asset to the immediate neighborhood. Limited recreational value is provided by these traffic triangles. An 'Adopt-A-Spot' program within the neighborhood should be pursued to reduce parks department maintenance responsibilities. There are opportunities to develop several of these islands into block parks if traffic conflicts can be resolved.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with neighborhood
- Explore feasibility of block park development

THE PARK SYSTEM SOUTH DISTRICT



the park system: south district

WILLIAM S. REA PARK

WILLIAM S. REA PARK

• 160 Acres • 7th Street and Davis Drive

CONTEXT

Rea Park is a golf and tennis facility on the south side of Terre Haute. The park was opened in 1925. The Clubhouse is an attractive building with historic architectural interest. The tennis complex adds a second use in addition to golf at the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The course is generally in good condition and works well as a public golf course. The course is relatively flat with few hazards. There are a few cart paths and there is poor delineation between fairways.

The clubhouse is a historical landmark but is in need of renovation and maintenance. The clubhouse is not accessible.

The parking area and drives are in good condition. Accessible parking spaces and access routes need to be clearly defined.

The park has nine tennis courts and all are in excellent condition. The courts were resurfaced in 2004. This is the largest tennis complex in the parks system. There are no lights. Windscreens and bleachers are provided.

Restroom facilities on the course include three flush restrooms with separate men and women's facilities. Restroom facilities are also available in the clubhouse.

* Priorities for Rea Park are identified in the 'Golf Courses' section of this plan on page 31.



Driving Range



Golf Carts and Course



Tennis Courts

the park system: south district

WILLIAM S. REA PARK



HWC
ENGINEERING

the park system: south district

BRITTLEBANK PARK

BRITTLEBANK PARK

• 7.5 Acres • 20th Street and Grant Street

CONTEXT

Before 2008, Brittlebank Park was perhaps the most underutilized park in the system. At that time, a group of pickleball players began using the tennis courts at the site. That group has since grown, and become a staple at the park. The courts have since been developed into dedicated pickleball courts.

Because much of the park is open space, the park has significant opportunity to develop additional activities, including playing fields.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is in good to fair condition. Currently there is no ADA accessible route or safety surface.

The full court basketball court is in good condition. There is not a pedestrian connection to the court. Visibility from the street is good.

The tennis courts have been converted to pickleball courts. There is no pedestrian access to the courts.

The shelter is in good condition. There is no pedestrian access to the shelter. On street parking is inconvenient, reducing the usefulness of the shelter.

Open space is the most abundant feature in this park, but least used. Provision of additional activities in open space is strongly encouraged.

Off street parking is inadequate and needs to be provided with accessible routes to park activities

*Lots
improvements*



Pickleball Courts

the park system: south district

BRITTLEBANK PARK



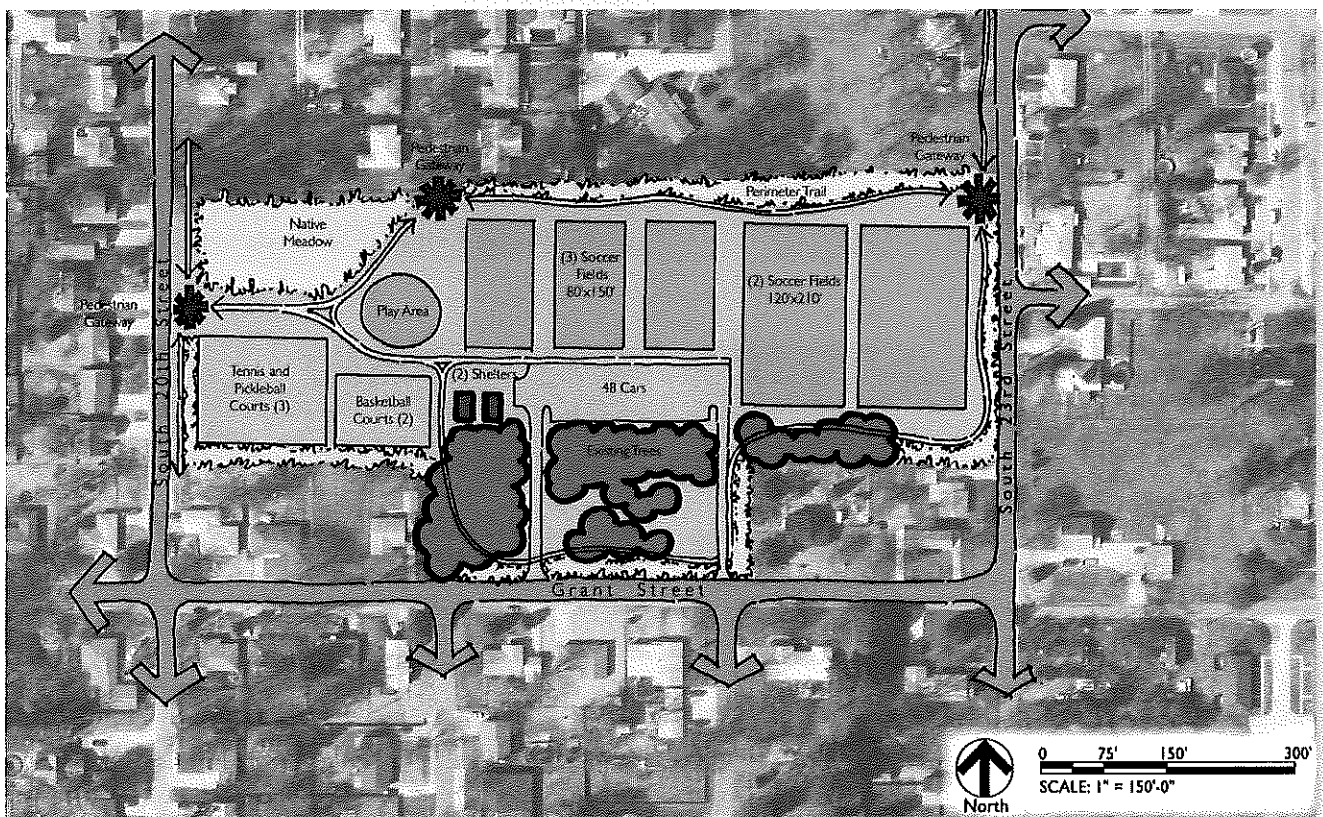
Playground

LONG TERM GOALS

- Construct loop trail and accessible paths
- Replace playground safety surfacing
- Provide off-street parking
- Provide accessible restroom
- Add picnic shelter near new parking
- Provide modest equipment storage building



Shelterhouse



Concept Plan: 2008



HWC
ENGINEERING

the park system: south district

VOORHEES PARK

VOORHEES PARK

• 17.4 Acres • 230 Voorhees Street

CONTEXT

Voorhees Park is a neighborhood park on the southwest side of Terre Haute. There is a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities in the park. Facilities include a skate park, a large picnic shelter, and softball field and playground area. Mature trees are distributed through much of the park.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A new skate park has been built and is a key attraction. The playground equipment is new and in good condition. There are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets.

There is one structure with separate restroom facilities in good condition. The structure also serves as a shelter. A unisex restroom is also provided in the skate park.

There is one full basketball court in good condition. Curbing is a trip hazard and should be removed. The court is located in the center of the park, providing poor visibility for safety.



Skate Park



Playground

the park system: south district

VOORHEES PARK



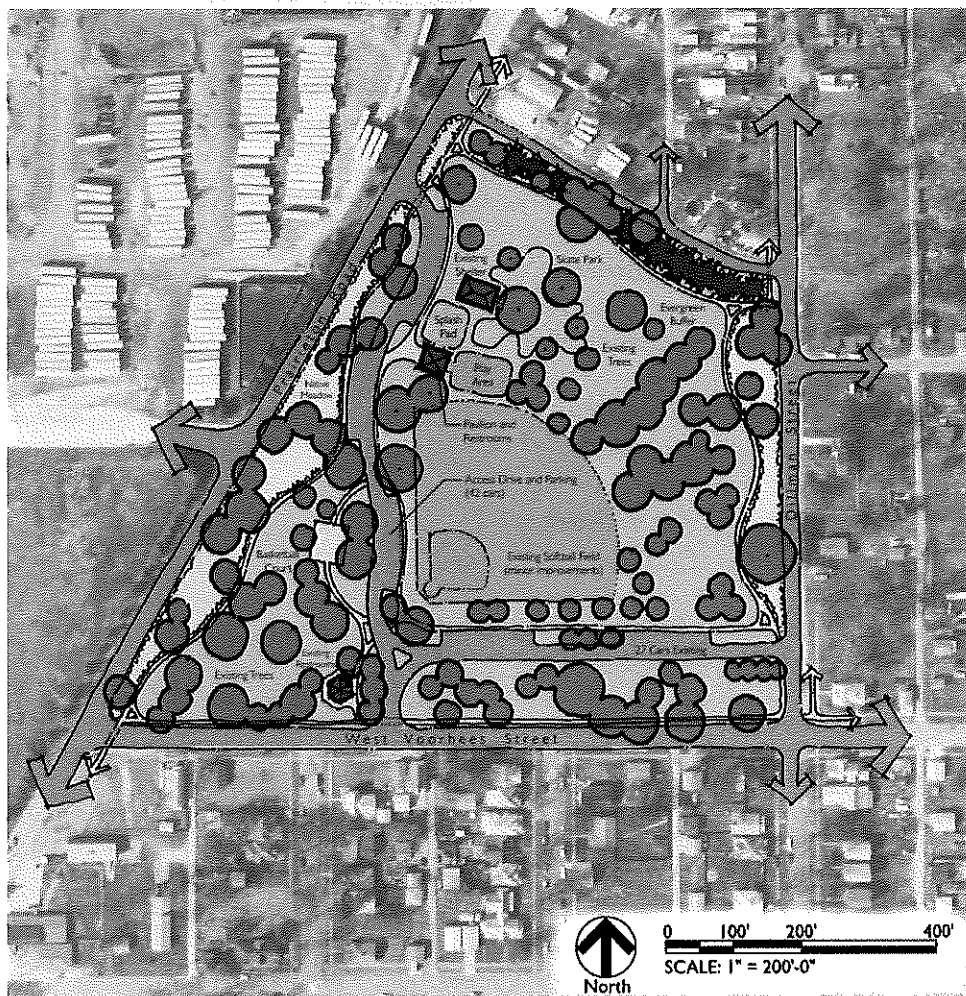
Ball Diamond and Bleacher

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Consider a future splash pad

LONG TERM GOALS

- Replace perimeter walks with wider walking surface that encircles the park
- Consider plan for park in the context of the greater riverfront initiative
- Consider need for ball field at the park. Consider re-orienting field so balls are not hit into skate park.



Concept Plan: 2008



HWC
ENGINEERING

the park system: south district

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK

• 2.4 Acres • 13th Street and College Avenue

CONTEXT

Booker T. Washington Park is highly valued by the neighborhood it serves. The park is historically significant in Terre Haute because it was the only park designated for African- Americans during segregation. Today the park includes the Booker T. Washington Center which houses offices for social services as well as a gymnasium. It also contains several classrooms suitable for indoor programming. Other park features include a playground and basketball and tennis court.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

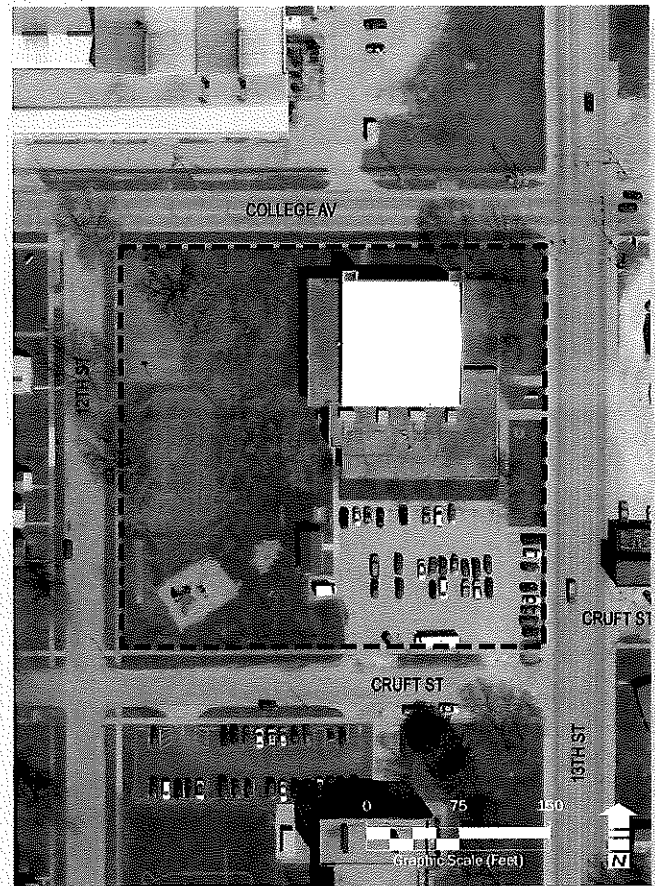
This park has a year-round facility that is owned by the City but not run by the City. Program direction is provided by Chances and Services for Youth.

The playground equipment is in fair condition. The pea gravel surfacing needs to be replaced. There are no accessible routes or pedestrian connections to perimeter streets and other park destinations.

The basketball court is in excellent condition. The location of the court is good, with high visibility.

A new shelter was added in 2009 and is in excellent shape.

The parking area is in good condition. Pedestrian routes are clearly identified. ADA parking spaces need to be striped and signed.



Booker T. Washington Community Center

the park system: south district

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON PARK



Playground



Shelterhouse



Basketball Court

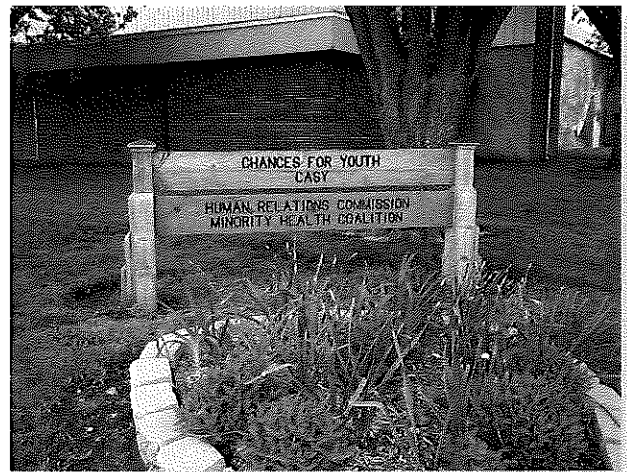
SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Update/replace playground and safety surfacing
- Add drinking fountain
- Add interpretive signage to explain the historical significance of the park (it was one of the few parks African-Americans were allowed to visit for many years.
- Consider splash pad at this location

LONG TERM GOALS

- Rehabilitate exterior basketball court and/or renovate tennis court for basketball
- Replace playground safety surfacing
- Construct accessible paths
- Upgrade tennis courts if educational programming can be provided through the center.

*Splash pad
coming -*



Chances and Services for Youth sign



the park system: south district

BLOCK PARKS

ONE TRIANGLE

- .1 Acres • 8th Street and Hulman Street

CONTEXT

One triangle is a traffic triangle with limited recreational value and provides only aesthetic value. The parks contains a flagpole and a small memorial.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The traffic island is an aesthetic asset to the immediate neighborhood. An 'Adopt-A-Spot' program within the neighborhood should be pursued for this traffic triangle. The maintenance of this facility is an inefficient use of park department equipment and employees.

LONGTERM GOALS

- Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with business and neighborhood



One Triangle Police and Fire Memorial

the park system: south district

BLOCK PARKS



6th Street Boulevard

6TH STREET BOULEVARD

• 5.0 Acres • Helen Avenue to Margaret Avenue

CONTEXT

6th Street Boulevard is a wide boulevard that extends one and a half blocks between Margaret Avenue and Helen Avenue. A railroad line crosses the north end of the boulevard. The neighborhood is an area that is under served by park facilities.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The boulevard view shed is free of obstacles except for the railroad crossing. The boulevard has potential for a block park. A small playground and shelter could provide recreational opportunities. Fencing and crosswalks would be needed along the railroad and the streets. The broadleaf trees lining the boulevard are in good condition. Additional trees should be provided to fill in gaps in the tree line. Additional trees are needed in the right of way along both sides of the street to develop a tree canopy.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with neighborhood
- Provide shelter
- Provide playground
- Construct traffic calming features, including fencing
- Provide additional tree plantings



THE PARK SYSTEM EAST DISTRICT



the park system: east district

DEMING PARK

DEMING PARK

• 160 Acres • Fruitridge and Ohio Boulevard

CONTEXT

Deming Park is the most visited park in the Terre Haute Parks system. The character of the park is defined by large expanses of open lawn with mature broadleaf trees and a meandering drive looping through the park. The mix of passive and active recreation activities appeals to a great number of parks patrons.

The park is home to the Deming Park pool, the Clark-Landsbaum Holly Arboretum, the Oakley Playground, and 18 hole disc golf course, many picnic shelters and two ponds among other recreational amenities. Parks activities such as Christmas in the Park, Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Memorial 5k and Haunted and Un-Haunted Halloween Happenings are widely popular.

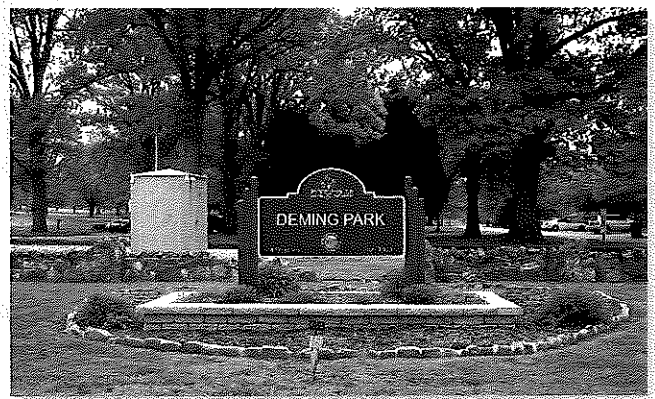
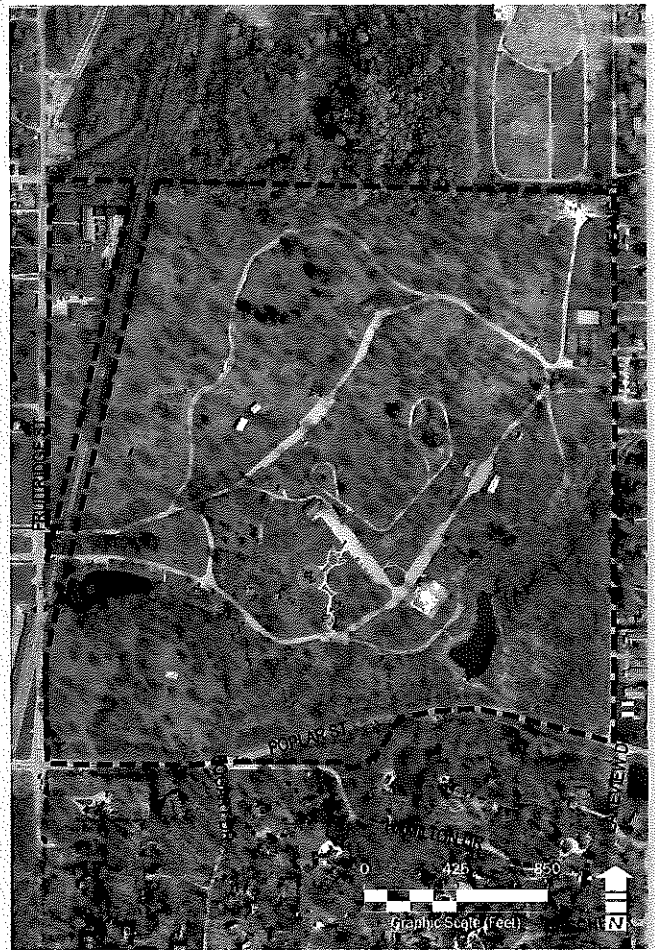
INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The Oakley Playground is an exceptional asset to the parks system. The equipment and poured in place surfacing are in excellent condition. The size and quality of this playground make it a very popular attraction. The Parks Department is currently planning to add outdoor fitness equipment near the playground for adults.

The high number of users may require additional maintenance due to wear on equipment.

The Torner Center is in good condition and houses some parks offices and a community meeting room and concessions area. The meeting room is used by outside groups as well as programming activities. Expansion of the center is needed to provide additional indoor programming.

There is one stand-alone restroom building with separate men and women's facilities. Restrooms are also available at Deming Park Pool locker rooms and



Deming Park Entrance Sign

the park system: east district

DEMING PARK



Oakley Playground



Frisbee Golf

in Torner Center. ADA accessibility improvements are needed.

The Deming Park pool is a neighborhood size pool with splash pad. A small pool house with locker rooms and a lifeguard station is provided. The pool house also has an open air ceiling and allows birds in. The age and relatively small pool size limits the attractiveness of the pool resulting in low numbers of swimmers on most days. The pool area is not ADA accessible.

There are three unlighted tennis courts that are in good condition and get used for pickleball and tennis lessons.

Deming Park contains one practice quality softball field. This field should be upgraded in order to host league play.

There is one soccer area with portable goals.

There is one full basketball courts and two half-courts all in moderate condition.

The eighteen-hole frisbee golf course is well-utilized and relatively low maintenance. The character of the course fits in well with the pastoral nature of the park. There are multiple tournaments each year. This course is currently being expanded by nine holes.

The park includes a mix of old and new shelters in a variety of sizes. Shelters are very popular at this park. Some of the older, larger shelters are in need of repair/replacement. A plan should be developed for the repair/replacement of shelters in this park.

The park's landscape structures include a small gazebo at the west pond near the park entrance and a small gazebo and fishing pier at the east pond. There is also a small bridge near the east pond. All the structures are in good condition.



the park system: east district

DEMING PARK

The Larrison Pavilion has fallen into disrepair. Though the pavilion was repainted in 2009, major renovation is needed to make the facility functional. Currently a concrete masonry unit stage area and backdrop are all that remain from what had been a large covered pavilion. A long term plan needs to be developed to determine the need to replace the pavilion with a similar structure or if an indoor recreational facility needs to be developed in the system that could also meet the need previously served by the pavilion.

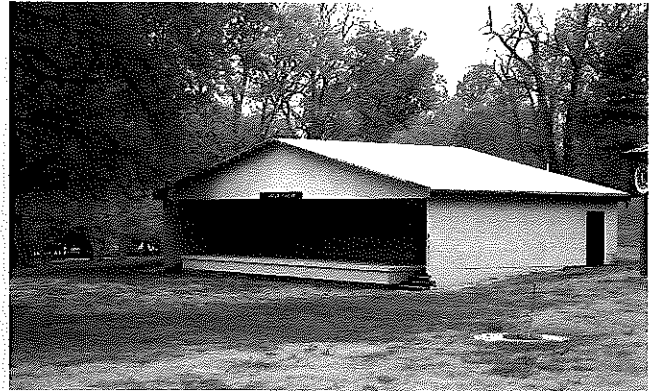
Remove or refurbish horse shoe pits. *no*

The park's naturalized areas include the heavily wooded areas east of the east pond and along the north side of the park. A heavy tree line along the south provides visual separation from Poplar Drive.

Renovate the wet areas in the park into true wetlands. *no*

Parking appears to be adequate throughout the park. ADA striping, signage and accessible routes need to be improved in most areas. The road surface is in good condition. Many people use this drive as a driving park. Some conflict occurs between pedestrian and vehicular traffic due to the lack of separate trails. The railroad crossing at the park entrance is a visual and physical barrier to Ohio Boulevard and presents safety problems with the active rail line and pedestrians entering the park. The feasibility of a four way stop at this intersection should be studied.

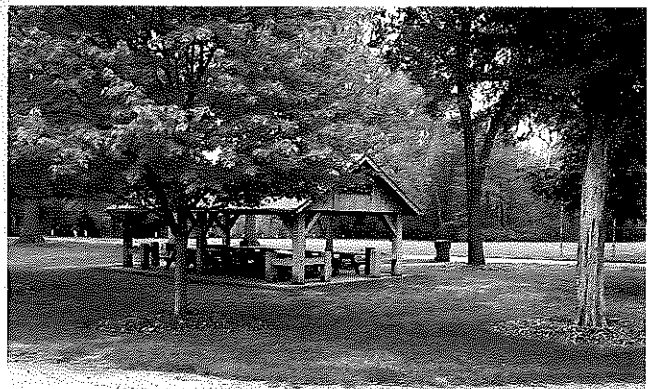
The maintenance area includes a large metal building and service area with outside storage. Landscape screening at storage yard is needed.



Larrison Pavilion



Park Entrance/Exit with Railroad Tracks



Shelterhouse

the park system: east district

DEMING PARK



Bridge within the Park



Fishing Pier and Gazebo



Master Gardener maintained Garden within Park

The Clark-Landsbaum Holly Arboretum contains over 300 hollies and serves as a unique asset to the park. The arboretum would benefit from the development of pathways, allowing ADA accessibility.

The train is a small gauge loop novelty ride near the playground and Torner Center that is popular with younger park users. There is a token fee to ride the train. There is discussion of extending the length of the train. The train also needs upgraded to provide for accessible use.

The park contains two ponds with a total area of approximately 3 acres. DNR stocks these ponds for the City. Because of the small size of the ponds, and the frequent use, they have a difficult time keeping the ponds stocked.

The ponds also have problems with silt. DNR has recommended installation of sediment traps upstream of both ponds to collect both sediment and nutrients.

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

- Improve Larrison Pavilion *no*
- Expand miniature train *no*
- Develop plan for shelter repair and replacement *SH*
- Determine long term plan for aquatics facilities
- Add outdoor fitness equipment.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Begin budgeting for long term repair and replacement of Oakley Playground surfacing.
- Re-open east entrance to pedestrians
- Implement planting/re-forestation plan



the park system: east district

HULMAN LINKS

HULMAN LINKS

• 230 Acres • 990 North Chamberlain Road

CONTEXT

Hulman Links is an 18-hole golf course with practice putting greens, a driving range, clubhouse and restaurant.

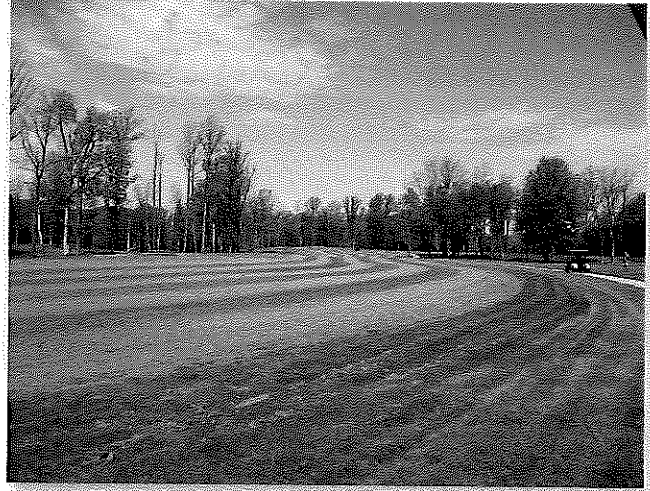
INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The course is set among rolling hills and contains multiple water hazards and wooded areas. The course is crowded at peak times and shows signs of wear. Many of the cart paths are in fair to poor condition and need to be improved.

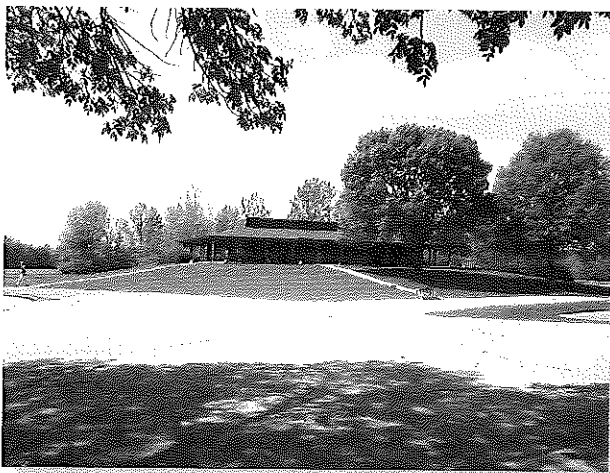
The parking area and drive lanes are in fair condition.

There is the desire to provide major improvements to the course that will not only improve the overall quality of play, but to speed play and increase the available capacity. Rehabilitation of the golf course will require that accessibility improvements be made.

*Priorities for Hulman Links are provided in the 'Golf Courses' section of this plan on page 31.



Golf Course



Pro Shop and Clubhouse



Cart Path

the park system: east district

HULMAN LINKS



HWC
ENGINEERING

the park system: east district

JOHN G. DOBBS MEMORIAL PARK

JOHN G. DOBBS MEMORIAL PARK

• 105 Acres • 5170 E. Poplar Drive

CONTEXT

John G. Dobbs Park is the city's premier nature park. The park is home to the Dobbs Park Nature Center and the Native American Museum. The majority of the park is heavily wooded. Dobbs Park contains 3.5 miles of woodland trails, a 3.5-acre pond and approximately 1.5 acres of wetland.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The playground equipment is in good condition but is in a remote location. The play equipment is accessible. There is accessible safety surfacing at the play equipment. Accessibility to the playground needs to be improved.

There is a large open lawn area between the parking lot and the playground. The open space area is separated from the pond by the park drive and parking area. The majority of the park is heavily wooded. Continual maintenance to remove understory invasive plants such as honeysuckle should continue.

The trail network consists of 3.5 miles of mulched woodland trails. The trails are in good condition. The trails are not accessible. Additional directional and interpretive signs need to be provided.

The nature center includes an inside bird viewing area, small office, and open meeting area.

One stand-alone restroom contains separate men and women's facilities in moderate condition. Restrooms are available at the Nature Center and Native American Museum. Improved access is needed at all restrooms.

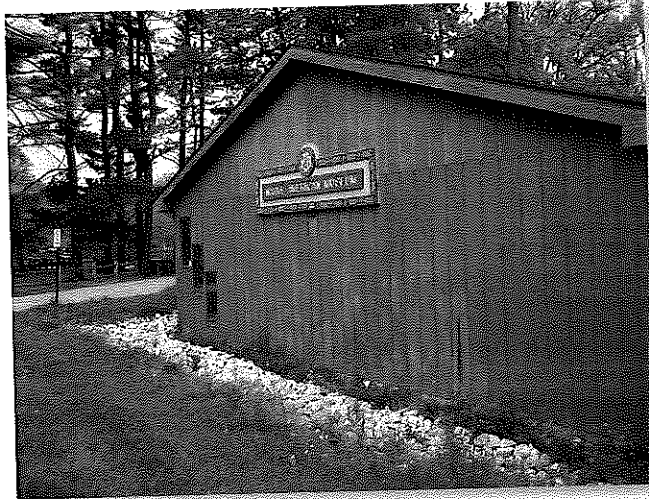
There are three shelters throughout the park, all in good condition.



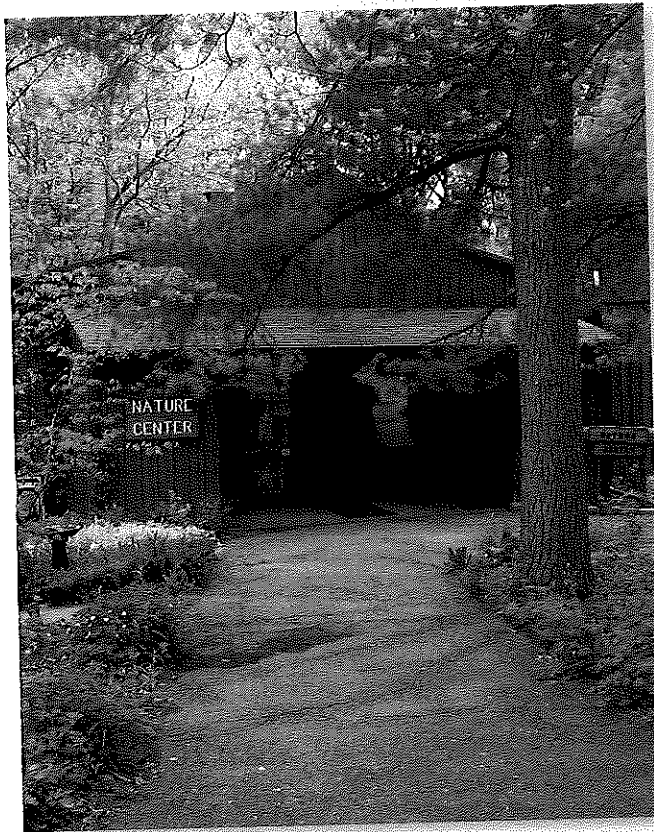
Park Shelter

the park system: east district

JOHN G. DOBBS MEMORIAL PARK



Native American Museum



Nature Center

The pavement is in poor condition and needs replaced. Improved delineation of the accessible spaces should be provided.

The 3.5 acre pond is a strong attraction. The City works with DNR to stock the pond. Silting of the pond is an ongoing concern. Upstream sediment traps were installed in 2012 to help address this issue.

The Nature Center greenhouse is severely deteriorated and needs to be replaced.

The maintenance facilities are deteriorated and it is recommended that they be moved off site. The house at the entrance to the park should also be removed. These steps would allow the beautification and realignment of the main entrance. As the main drive is reconfigured, it should route closer to the playground, shelters, and buildings.

A continued problem at the park is that nearby residences are infringing on the nature preserve. A protection plan for the preserve needs to be implemented.



the park system: east district

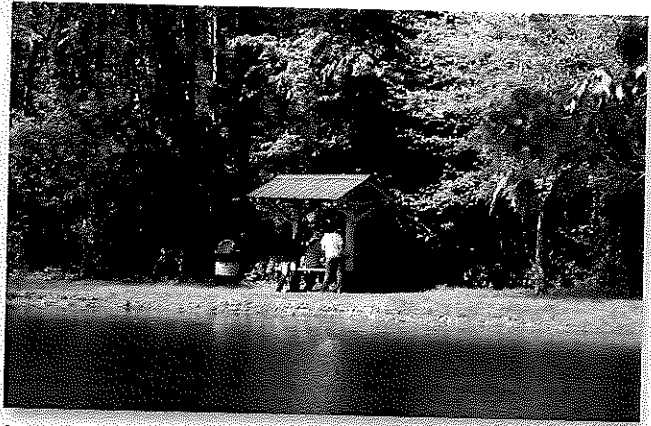
JOHN G. DOBBS MEMORIAL PARK

SHORT TERM GOALS (2014-2018)

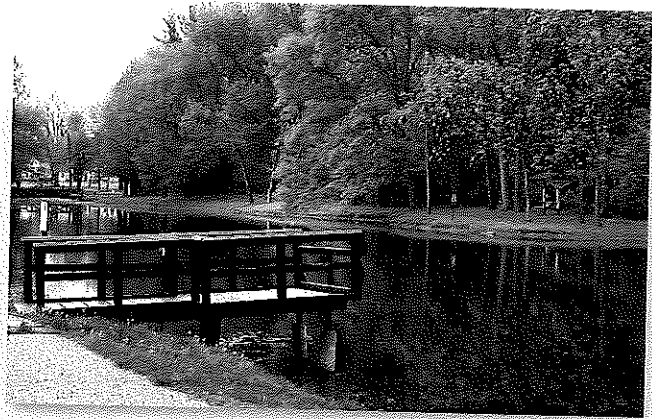
- Provide accessibility improvements at Museum and Nature Center
- Develop protection plan to limit intrusion into nature preserve by adjacent residents.

LONG TERM GOALS

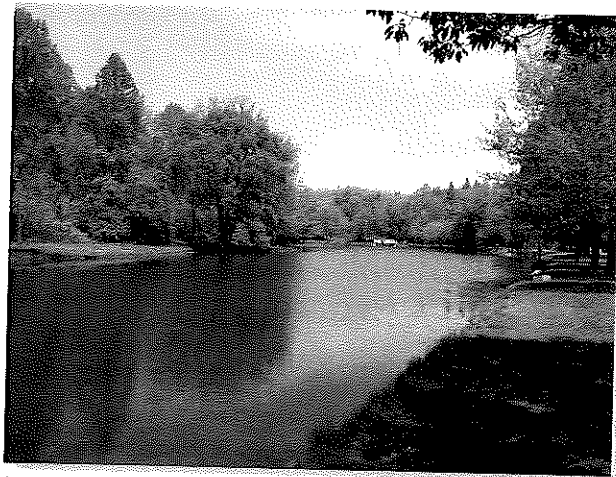
- Relocate maintenance facility and house and reconfigure main entrance
- Provide accessible route to playground or add parking near playground
- Provide trailheads and improve directional and interpretive signage
- Construct fishing pier
- Make trails accessible
- Increase outdoor nature programming
- Remove invasive plant species in natural areas
- Demolish director's house
- Stabilize pond banks
- Repair and paint shelters



Picnic Shelter on Pond



Existing Fishing Pier



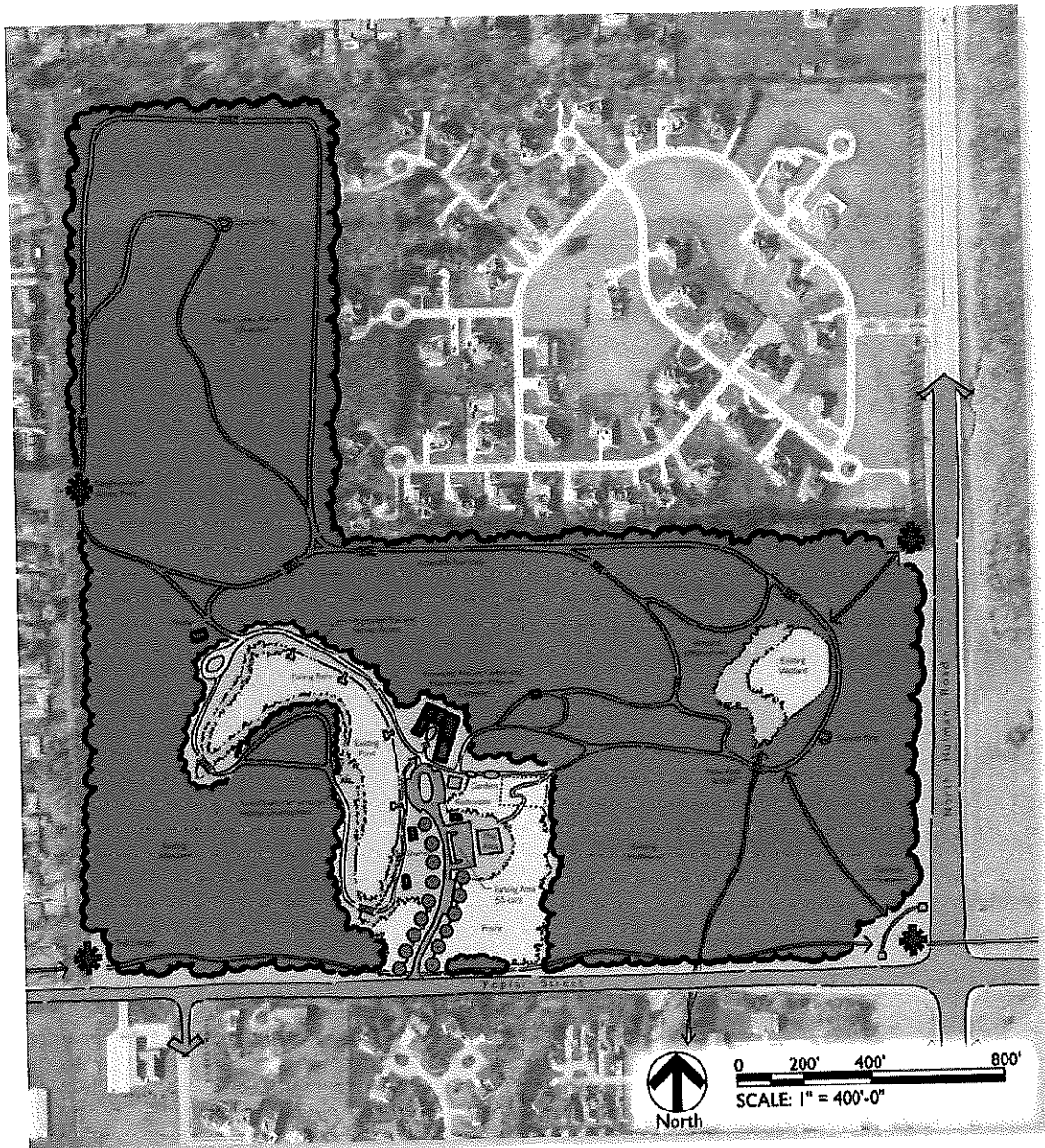
John G. Dobbs Memorial Park Pond



Playground

the park system: east district

JOHN G. DOBBS MEMORIAL PARK



Concept Plan: 2008



HWC
ENGINEERING

the park system: east district

17 ACRES PARK

17 ACRES PARK

• 17 Acres • 4113 E. Wabash Avenue

CONTEXT

17 Acres Park is an undeveloped parcel north of Deming Park and fronting on Wabash Avenue (US 40). It directly abuts Deming Park to the south and is largely wooded. It is currently being used to store wood chips and mulch.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

It is proposed that this site be developed into a sustainable maintenance facility for the parks department. This would allow maintenance areas at Dobb's Park and Deming Park to be converted into recreational lands.

A drive connection would allow the maintenance area to be accessed directly from Deming Park, and would also allow access to Wabash Avenue.

Features to be included in the facility could include maintenance buildings, composting yard, mulching areas, a tree nursery, a greenhouse, and other features.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Conduct (Phase I) brownfield site assessment.
- Complete drainage assessment in collaboration with
- Rose-Hulman.
- Construct new sustainable maintenance facility to serve the district.

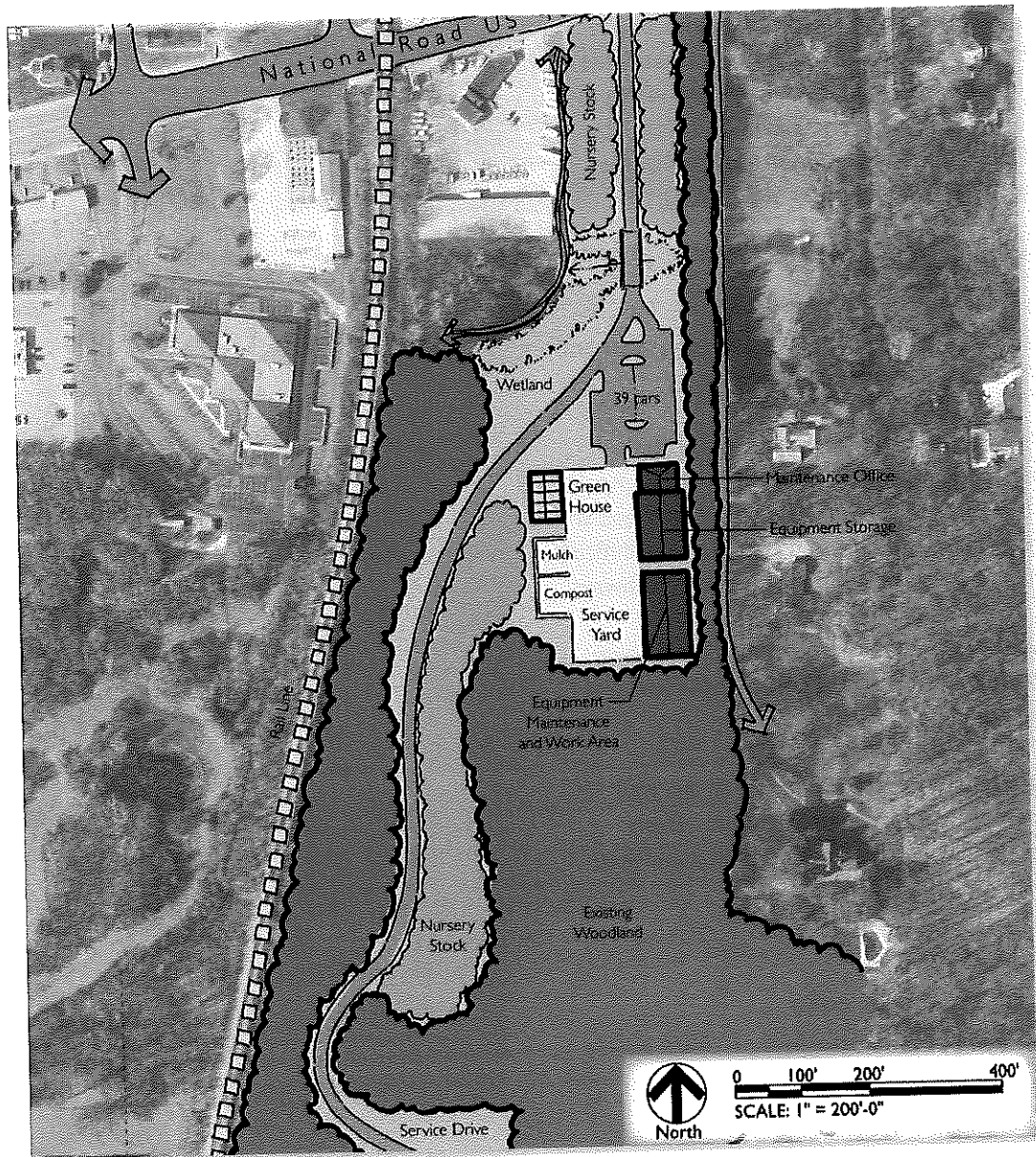


Existing Conditions



the park system: east district

17 ACRES PARK



Concept Plan: 2008



HWC
ENGINEERING

the park system: east district

BLOCK PARKS

JONES TRAILHEAD

• 2.0 Acres • Chamberlain Road

CONTEXT

The Jones Trailhead is the eastern terminus of The National Road Heritage Trail. Long-term statewide plans call for the trail to extend the entire width of the state from Terre Haute to Richmond along the National Road corridor. Facilities provided at the trailhead include a vending area and parking.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The Jones Trailhead has a large parking area for 20 cars. There is a vending area as well as bike racks and a picnic shelter, all in excellent condition.

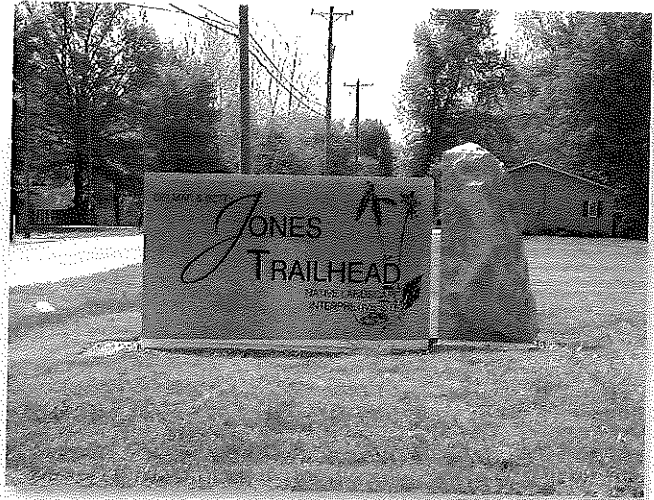
The trailhead also contains educational gardens which meander along the sides of the National Road Heritage Trail. The pathways within these gardens are constructed of large and loose stone, which is difficult to walk on and is not well contained in the pathways.

The site contains a few bio-retention areas to help manage stormwater run-off. The bio-retention areas are in good condition.

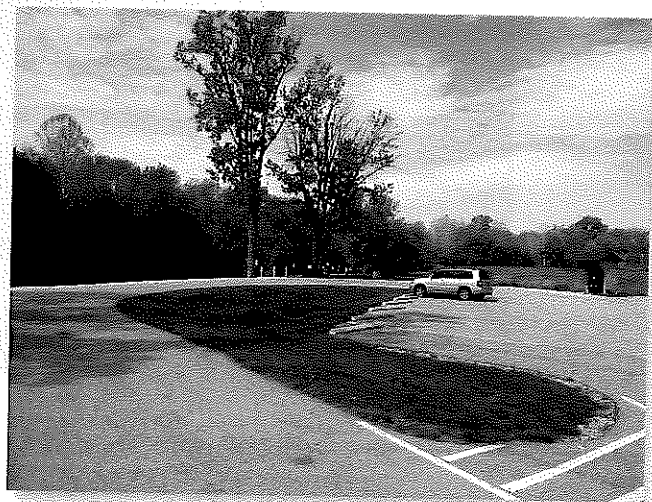
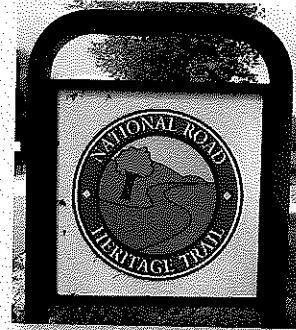
The signage around the trailhead and on the trail are fairly new and in excellent condition. Trash receptacles are also in excellent condition and well placed.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Construct a restroom facility
- Develop a plan for management of native areas and bio-retention.
- Install amphitheater.



Jones Trailhead Sign



Jones Trailhead Parking Area and Bio-Retention

the park system: east district

BLOCK PARKS



Twiggs Rest Area Sign

TWIGG REST AREA

• 2.0 Acres • US 40 East of Overpass

CONTEXT

Twigg Rest Area is a trailhead at the eastern terminus of the National Road Heritage Trail. The trailhead was constructed on the site of a former rest area along US 40. The park is very popular with area residents. A grant was recently awarded to Terre Haute to provide additional improvements to the trailhead including a restroom facility.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The parking area is in excellent condition. Accessible parking spaces are provided along with an accessible route to the trail. Direct access is provided to Wabash Avenue.

The site includes bike racks, a kiosk, benches, restrooms, and litter receptacles. All site amenities are in excellent condition. Access should be provided to the benches and litter receptacles.



Twiggs Rest Area Trailhead



ACTION PLAN



action plan

FACILITIES ACTION PLAN

Facilities Action Plan			
ACTION	COST EST.	FUNDING SOURCE	YEAR
Deming Park			
Determine long term plan for aquatics facilities	\$20,000	Local Funding	2014
Add outdoor fitness equipment	\$25,000	Fundraising, Donations	2014
Expand miniature train	\$250,000	Fundraising, Donations	2015
Develop plan for Larrison Pavilion	\$15,000	Local Funding	2016
Develop plan for shelter repair and replacement	\$20,000	Local Funding	2016
Sheridan Park			
Develop/implement long term vision for park	\$10,000	Local Funding	2014
Construct splash pad	\$100,000	Local Funding	2015
Fairbanks Park			
Add dog park	Funding in Place	Funding in Place	2014
Re-work the fountain area to serve as another park attraction	\$150,000	Local Funding	2016
Add additional public art	N/A	Arts Spaces, Inc.	2016
Spencer F. Ball Park			
Remove Tennis Courts	\$20,000	Local Funding	2015
Maple Avenue Nature Park			
Finish restrooms	\$75,000	Local Funding	2015
John Hanley Jr., Park			
Investigate 'Adopt-A-Spot' feasibility with local businesses	N/A	Donated Labor	2015

action plan

FACILITIES ACTION PLAN

Facilities Action Plan			
ACTION	COST EST.	FUNDING SOURCE	YEAR
Coy Park			
Consider reducing usable acreage and eliminate mowing through meadow installation	\$5,000	Local Funding	2016
John G. Dobbs Nature Park			
Develop protection plan to limit intrusion into nature preserve	N/A	Staff Action	2016
Provide accessibility improvements at Museum/Nature Center	\$25,000	Local Funding	2018
Booker T. Washington Park			
Update/replace playground and safety surfacing	\$100,000	Local Funding	2017
Add new drinking fountain	\$5,000	Local Funding	2017
Add interpretive signage to explain the historical significance of the park	\$10,000	Fundraising, Donations	2017
Consider a future splash pad	\$100,000	Local Funding	2017
Voorhess Park			
Consider a future splash pad	\$150,000	Local Funding	2017
Collett Park			
Construct new park entrance/abandon existing structure	\$100,000	Local Funding	2018
Curtis Gilbert Park			
Upgrade park to accommodate downtown festivals & events	\$150,000	Local Funding	2018



action plan

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION PLAN

Administrative Action Plan	
ACTION	YEAR
Develop a long term aquatics plan	
Develop plan for obsolescence of Deming Park pool	2014-2015
Evaluate provision of one large regional pool with smaller splash pads in neighborhoods	2014-2015
Research public/private partnerships that could support aquatics plan	2014-2015
Continue current momentum to complete greenway plan connections	
Seek financing to complete future phases of the greenways plan, with emphasis on connecting park facilities	2014-2018
Upgrade facilities to meet current accessibility standards	
Create implementation plan to address most significant accessibility issues based on cost, frequency of use, scheduled obsolescence, and related issues	2014-2015
Complete ADA improvements when possible through Parks/City resources	2015-2018
Develop policy to guide decisions in elimination of low-use parks	
Identify neighborhoods with low-use parks. Identify if other opportunities are located nearby.	2016
Confirm responsibility for maintenance of low-use facilities.	2016
Study alternate programming where park facilities no longer match the neighborhoods they serve	2017
Formalize decision making policy	2017
Implement golf improvements	
Continue implementing recommendations of the Golf Oversight Committee	2014-2018
Establish and promote a parks endowment	
Identify individual to serve as chair of foundation and spearhead initial fundraising	2015
Partner with local Community Foundation to establish endowment	2015-2018
Establish replacement policies for maintenance equipment	
Identify obsolescence dates for major equipment	2016
Identify funding sources to offset replacement costs	2016-2017

action plan

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION PLAN

Administrative Action Plan	
ACTION	YEAR
Develop and update a capital improvements budget	
Create draft document highlighting major improvements suggested in this plan	2015
Consolidate east/central maintenance operations into a single facility at 17 Acres Park. Make this facility a model for sustainable maintenance protocols.	
Study options for maintenance facility	2017
Design and Secure Financing	2018
Establish a consistent professional signage and wayfinding system to make parks more user friendly	
Create report identifying locations and condition of existing wayfinding and signage	2018
Develop implementation plan for augmenting and replacing signage	2018
Develop park-oriented promotional materials to assist in economic development initiatives	
Contact Chamber of Commerce and Terre Haute Economic Development Corporation to see what information would be helpful to provide to prospective businesses	2017
Educate stakeholders and the public on value of parks	
Identify and schedule promotional events to be held in key parks throughout the City	2014-2018
Partner with local schools, universities and media outlets to increase visibility of park events through promotion and coverage of events.	
Identify partnership opportunities and develop plan for promotion of priority events.	2016
Implement green/sustainability best practices through department	
Identify and test sustainability practices.	2014
Evaluate practices and formalize policies throughout the department	2016
Ensure security of park facilities is kept as a top priority	
Investigate alternatives for improving security such as local watch committees, employee residences within parks, park rangers, or additional police patrols.	2015
Support riverfront development initiatives	
Work with Wabash Valley Development and Beautification, INC. to promote the Wabash River and riverfront, including Fairbanks Park	2014-2018

APPENDICES



appendices

APPENDIX A: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY AND NOTES

February 8th, 2013 at the Torner Center in Deming Park

Stakeholder's Meeting

February 8, 2013

Is the Parks Dept. designating certain parks for special areas; such as Fairbanks for festival?

- The department is trying to push people to use different parks rather than just Deming

How do you feel about the pools and splash pads in the community?

- Need to figure out a way to build a water park and close down Deming and Sheridan pool. This can be done in steps. Build just a pool first and each year add on slides and other features.
- A private industry needs to be the one to come in and do a water park
- There is enough momentum in Terre Haute to build an aquatics center
- Start doing things like scuba training and senior training in Deming pool to create more money to put into a new aquatics center
- Location for water park or aquatics center would be at the stadium
- Private sector would need to give donations to help in the building of a center
- In Chicago the city and private sector partnered together in order to create a facility
- Stick splash pads at parks that are not used in order to draw more attention to that park
- A great place for a splash pad would be the Booker T. Washington Park
- Extend the hours at Deming Pool for people to go after they get off work
- Create the idea of a water park or aquatics center and then go after stockholders or companies to get the money

Trails?

- A lot of wear and tree damage has already happened to trails-we need to maintain
- Consider water fountain in Indiana mile
- Restrooms along the trail need to be open in the winter for warm days when people get out

How are the parks for jobs in the city?

- They are a great economic attraction for people here
- The parks help with both attracting and retaining employees. We are able to brag about our cost of living being lower compared to the quality of parks
- The parks are a tremendous community asset
- One of the top 3 questions I get from new employees is where do I spend recreational time

Other comments or concerns?

- The Nature Center needs to be expanded and modernized
- We have one of the best nature centers around
- Need to find ways to get the word out about our nature center and other parks opportunities
- Consider selling block parks and attract more attention to neighborhood parks
- Be thoughtful of what places you sell parks. Lower income areas need those parks and those neighborhoods always get hit
- A lot of parks have been deeded to the Parks Department so they cannot be sold
- More cuts are coming so don't sale anything. Need to learn to hang on to what you have. 10 years from now you may be glad you kept them
- Use some of the incarcerated to help with maintenance
- People are willing to help but don't know how. Need to get the word out
- Move events to other parks. Do a smaller scale event to bring people to some of the small neighborhood parks
- Allow alcohol at certain events in the park
- Grow more native grasses and flowers in areas so that won't have to be mowed
- Put more art in the parks
- If we can get more groups in the park they become safer and more inviting
- Have bike patrols in the summer through Fairbanks and Deming
- Having an officer live in Deming Park was a great deterrent. Problems with vandalism after he moved out
- More people are picking up playing pickleball so having more pickleball courts would be beneficial
- We need to create a vision and then go after people to sponsor. Sponsorship is not here like it use to be
- We need to cut our losses with the golf courses. Close Hulman Links and have only Rae Park
- The parks are not meant to make a profit but to provide a service to the community and cut violence

APPENDIX A: STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY AND NOTES

2014-2018 Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting

February 8, 2013

Name	Company/Organization	Signature
Jeff Lorrick	Human Relations, City of Terre Haute	<i>Jeff Lorrick</i>
Pat Martin	Terre Haute City Planner	<i>Pat Martin</i>
Norm Loudermilk	City Council	<i>Norm Loudermilk</i>
Marylee Hagan	Executive Director, Vigo County Historical Society	<i>Marylee Hagan</i>
Chuck Ennis	Terre Haute City Engineer	<i>Chuck Ennis</i>
Terry Tevlin	Director of Marketing, First Financial Bank	<i>Terry Tevlin</i>
Jim Jensen	Director, Facilities Operations & Maintenance, ISU	<i>Jim Jensen</i>
Mary Ann Conroy	CEO, Regional Hospital	
Jim McKinney	Civil Engineering Professor, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	<i>Jim McKinney</i>
Rex Lawler	Owner, Lawler Sports	<i>Rex Lawler</i>
Cory Whitesell	Director of Planning, HWC Engineering	
Eddie Bird	Superintendent, Terre Haute Parks Department	<i>Eddie Bird</i>
Rita Coleman-Alsop	Assitant Superintendent, Terre Haute Parks Department	<i>Rita Coleman-Alsop</i>
Bruce Rosselli	Director of Recreation, Terre Haute Parks Department	<i>Bruce Rosselli</i>
Alysha Kesner	Assistant Director of Recreation, Terre Haute Parks Department	<i>Alysha Kesner</i>
Tina Bauer	Office Manager, Terre Haute Parks Department	<i>Tina Bauer</i>
Carissa Lovett	Naturalist, Terre Haute Parks Department	<i>Carissa Lovett</i>
Jane Creedon	Curator, Terre Haute Parks Department	<i>Jane Creedon</i>
Dave Kennedy	Golf Operations Manager, Terre Haute Parks Department	<i>Dave Kennedy</i>

Name	Company/Organization	Signature
<i>Jim Chacos</i>	<i>CITY COUNCIL</i>	<i>Jim Chacos</i>



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APPENDIX B: PARKS STAFF & BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

March 19th 2013 at the Torner Center in Deming Park

2014-2018 Master Plan Meetings

Cory Whitesell (from HWC) would like to meet with each department to discuss the 2014-2018 Master Plan. Each meeting will take about one hour. Plan to meet with Cory at the Torner Center on Tuesday, March 19 at your listed time below. Please be on time for your meeting.

8:00 am- Recreation Staff: Bruce and Alysha

- Indoor recreation was identified previously as a need. How is this now? Is Torner enough? How is Booker T Washington Center integrated now.
City still owns Booker T. Washington Community Center. This is operated by Chances for Youth, and is run independently by that organization.

The parks is currently running Yoga and Pottery classes. These are held at the Torner Center. They would like to do more, but they don't have the budget to pay for instructors – much less more facilities.

They are interested in a long term expansion of the Torner Center. They specifically want to have more flex space for activities and crafts. More offices are also needed.

The budget for programming is not enough. They have many things they could do, but the budget is insufficient. Bruce has come on within the last year as the Director of Recreation.

The overall parks budget was cut \$242,000 last year alone. That caused them to shut down Sheridan Park pool and other things.

They previously had a recreation budget of up to \$125,000. Their current budget is only \$30,000. This tight budget causes them to make programming choices based on what can be self sustaining, what can generate revenue to pay for itself, and what does not require significant staffing.

They currently are trading sponsorships for help in daily needs.

Programming run by this department includes: adult softball, the pool, summer day camps, and three big events (The Memorial 5k, Easter Egg hunt, Halloween Happenings), concessions, and the train.

Everything at pool building needs revamped. Locker rooms need redone to make them accessible. They are currently adding a lift at the pool for ADA. However, it is only partially helpful since the bathrooms are not wheelchair accessible.

Bruce and Alysha started in 2012 and 2011, respectively.

They are working on the expansion of the train track. A Rose Hulman student group is currently completing a study. A public presentation will be made in April. They are expecting a cost of \$100,000 in material only for just the ½ mile track expansion. This does not include the design or installation.

APPENDIX B: PARKS STAFF & BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

They get a lot of school field trips. Field trip groups come, but can't ride the train because they don't have money for the \$1.25 fee for each student. Getting out some flyers to groups coming ahead of time would help generate more revenue for the train.

There is still a long term desire to upgrade aquatic offerings. The plan is still to put this at Memorial Park. We discussed whether or not this was in the 5 year plan, and that is debatable. They ideally would like to see it within 5 years.

We discussed selling off lesser used parks. They noted that this was an ongoing discussion. The example of Anaconda Park keeps coming up. It is a very small park with a basketball court. It was noted that discussions with focus groups have been against closing this park in particular because the basketball court gets used. We discussed that you probably need to limit discussion to only smaller pocket parks that do not have built amenities or a user base.

They are investigating the option of installing an ice rink. The proposal is to get a sponsor to provide the facility. It would be built at Fairbanks Park to capitalize on ISU student use. Bruce would like to see it have refrigeration so it could be used more often. The refrigeration would add \$265,000 to the cost. It is proposed that it be multi-use, with summer use as in-line skating, or maybe a wheelchair basketball or floor hockey use. Cory suggested they look into the Lafayette facility.

Budget has been a major issue. This year, they took down tennis nets over the winter to save money. (except at Rae Park where upgraded nets do not allow this).

They need money to refinish tennis courts. Rea in good shape, but the others need work. We discussed an ADA compliance plan. Their current strategy is to make new facilities accessible. The new restrooms at Collett Park were an example of new facilities being built to ADA requirements. We discussed that they really need to have an overall written strategy and annual budget established to document the work that they are making toward compliance. This needs to include an annual ADA budget, and a priority listing of what they will work on first. One discussion was the first priorities would be to make one type of each park facility accessible throughout the department ADA (example, make sure there is one accessible tennis court somewhere in the system and make it available to the public). Then, the second goal could be to make the highest use facilities in all the parks accessible (such as restrooms). After that, you would begin focusing on making one facility in each park accessible. Cory recommended a written transition plan be developed.

They are planning to add outdoor fitness equipment. They plan to put this at Deming along trail near playground. These are fitness machines, and not just the fitness stations that exist at Memorial Park.

Wellness and encouraging exercise is a key part of what they do. They have recently shifted policies to provide prizes that promote activity and movement. This means for easter egg prizes, they are offering bikes, Frisbees and balls instead of TV's or video games.

They want to add splash pads at Sheridan and probably at Voorhees. They are looking into fitness programming related to trails, especially since the trails now go through Deming. They are interested in bike rental at Deming now that the trail is through the park.



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APPENDIX B: PARKS STAFF & BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

9:00 am- Maintenance: Hal and Billy

There are currently approximately 20 employees in Maintenance. This has held reasonably steady over the last 4-5 years. However, the number of seasonal staff is down. They had 10 seasonal staff four years ago. In 2012, they budgeted for 5, but were only able to hire one. They ended up hiring two additional seasonal workers, but those persons watered trees all summer for the engineering department due to the drought.

Because of budget cuts, they have really cut back on what they buy. They are trying to avoid buying supplies.

They noted that they are building things in house whenever they can. For example, they built grills themselves.

They noted that maintenance is currently more reactive than proactive. They can't afford to be proactive right now.

They are deferring maintenance for the future.

It was noted that it has been 4-5 years since they did a comprehensive amount of painting.

It was noted that Eddie Bird does a great job of keeping maintenance involved in budget discussions. By making the decisions together, they can best manage the tough times.

- The biggest maintenance needs are:
- Equipment to maintain the parks is needed. Mowers and utility vehicles are the biggest need, but they also need trucks too. They are putting a lot of money into out-dated mowers. They can't afford to fix the mowers that were supposed to be cycled out. They have \$12,000 mowers that they've used so much that they can't get trade in value other than a few hundred dollars in scrap metal value.
- The park shelters are really in poor shape. They need to replace some every year, but this was cut from the budget.
- The maintenance facility is in very poor shape. This was noted as a major concern for the last year. They cited buildings and roofs in poor condition, and the need for cabinets to store flammable materials. An example was given that they have standing water on the floors after it rains, sometimes several inches thick.

Eddie noted that the parks budget was \$3.4M budget 5 years ago. It is now \$2.6M.

The parks has focused on making high impact, low cost decisions. An example was they spent several days clearing the woods along the trail at Dobb's. They had greater needs, but needed to show the public they were working on what they could.

We had a long discussion about how do you make the public aware of the budget choices you make. As an example, Cory discussed that the sequestration has impacted departments heavily, but instead of making behind the scenes cuts – the National Parks has made prominent cuts so that the public knows full impact of the decisions. We noted that it was important to not just defer overdue maintenance even more, but rather to make cuts that the public can see. As an example, Eddie noted that they did not mow the interior of the railroad track last year in Deming. They had to cut a couple times because of public complaints, but that helped save some work.

APPENDIX B: PARKS STAFF & BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

It was noted that they are looking for donations for just about all supplies that they use for maintenance.

Vandalism continues to be a major issue. It is the worst during the summer season when schools are out. In the summer, they expect to find vandalism every night.

Eddie noted that he has tried to hire a park ranger. This would be a seasonal employee, and would just patrol at night when schools are out. He has not had the budget to do this.

Previously, Eddie had a guy that closed gates for him in parks every night. They had to let this person go due to union issues. Vandalism has went up since then.

Eddie is now tracking vandalism and repair costs. He is hoping to validate that a park ranger could pay for itself. The trails are starting to need significant maintenance. It was discussed that if you don't seal asphalt when cracks first appear, that the pavement will deteriorate quickly. Maintenance is overdue in many cases. Asphalt is deteriorating on the new trails.

Two maintenance persons are dedicated to Booker T Washington.

They maintain 112 flower beds in the city, plus the beds on US 40 and SR 46. It takes them 3-4 days to do the work on US 40 and SR 46, and they have to do it at least 2 times a year. They are also working on US 41/I-70 intersection for mowing and clean up.

The parks department has eliminated the maintenance of non-park areas. They no longer mow the medians in Edgewood Grove. They no longer mow Fire Stations. However, they have picked up maintenance of flower beds.

They are trying to cut down on the amount of mowing that they do. They brush hog some area 1-2 times a year. However, the amount of park area they mow has grown with the addition of Maple Avenue. They are closer to 1,000 acres.

They have added 2 gazebos in the parks in the last 2 years. Both were donated.

They are building benches or getting donations – not buying.

They bought one new truck last year.

They tried to implement a maintenance obsolescence plan, but have not had the funding to implement it.

10:00 am- Golf Course Superintendent: Dave and Don Alumbaugh

Money is the key issue with the golf courses. They need a lot of investment in maintenance equipment to be able to keep up the golf courses.

They have recently received funding that will allow them to make some strategic investments into the golf courses.



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APPENDIX B: PARKS STAFF & BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Hulman Links:

The entire irrigation system needs replaced. It was built in 1976, and generally has a 25 year life expectancy. They are experiencing problems with pumps, leaks and the shut off control system. They rebuilt the pumps in 2000, but need more work. It is expected to cost \$1.0-1.5M to replace the system.

- The challenge for the golf course goes beyond just the irrigation pumps and piping. The course gets its water from Lost Creek. Lost Creek traditionally dries up in the summer. They pump from the creek into ponds during the wet season, and use the stored water to irrigate in the late summer and fall. But, in 2012 Lost Creek dried up in June and by July there was no water for irrigation and the course was in poor condition.
- The upgrades to the irrigation system will need to include a more reliable water source. They have drilled test wells, but there is not enough water for irrigation from test wells. They have looked into pumping water from other lakes in the area, and that is likely the solution that they will go with.
- As a first step in addressing the lack of sufficient water, the course is changing its fairways to a Zoysia grass. This is drought tolerant, and takes half the water as their current grass. By relying less on water, the intent is to make the irrigation water last longer.
- They have never had a process in place for obsolescence of equipment. This was talked about in the last plan, but never implemented because of severe budget cuts.
- The cart paths are in poor shape and need replaced.
- Their maintenance building roof leaks and needs replaced.
- Drainage improvements need made at the course. The clay soil makes drainage an ongoing challenge. This is being completed in coordination with the sanitary district.
- 2012 had started to be a good year for the course. However, the strong start due to good weather was stalled when they ran out of water. There was discussion that maybe this was a good thing, as it has caused everyone to take the problems at the course more seriously.
- We discussed paying for the cost of the needed renovations to Hulman. It was noted that the fee structure could be increased quite a bit if the course is kept in premium condition. "It could be a \$50/round course if renovated".
- The greens at Hulman need to be re-built.

Rea Park:

- Rea Park made \$20,000 last year. Don and Dave noted it was largely because it was such a good spring that allowed a lot of golf rounds to be played in March.
- Season passes are an ongoing concern. They have several golfers who play every day – as many as 200-250 rounds a year. These golfers are paying \$600/year for a pass – which means they are golfing for less than \$3 per round. Most do not buy concessions or rent carts, which means they play slower and are not contributing other dollars to the course.
- The consensus was that Rea Park is "over used".
- Rea Park's irrigation system was installed in 1984. It is approaching the end of its useful life, but is still in good condition.
- The soil at Rea is sand. The course is also open (without trees blocking air flow). Both factors make for better conditions for maintaining a course.

We discussed with Eddie that the ultimate goal for the golf courses is to get close to breaking even. Rea Park should be able to show a profit every year. Hulman will be more difficult to show a profit, but the two together should ultimately be able to break even.

APPENDIX B: PARKS STAFF & BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

They've not always changed fee structures due to political reasons.

Hulman allows alcohol. Rae does not allow alcohol. They tried to allow alcohol at Rea a few years ago, but it was not approved because of the proximity of the course to Terre Haute South.

The discussion was that if Rea was a private course, the first thing the owner would do is increase rates and sell beer. It was felt that this would help it make money.

We discussed that golf is important for much more than recreation. WE noted that charities raise well over \$200,000 at the courses each year. Hulman Links is important because it is part of the overall community image as a higher end course. We also discussed how much business is done at the golf course.

In summary, Hulman Links is an important course to the community and needs to be restored. The work needs to include irrigation and other improvements. The short term work of addressing equipment and replacing the grass is an essential first step. At Rea Park, the upgrade of equipment is also the first priority. Beyond that, it is maintaining the profit that the course made in 2012, and then continuing to show a modest profit each year. In an ideal situation, profits at Rea Park would be enough to make up for any potential loss at Hulman Links.

11:00 pm- Golf Pro: Dave Kennedy

Dave is the Golf Pro for both Rae and Hulman.

"Spending is at the minimum. You can't possibly spend less on these courses."

Dave noted that the condition of the course drives the revenue. He echoed the need for course improvements and better maintenance equipment as described by Dave and Don Alumbaugh.

They have just implemented a new point of sale system for 2013. This will allow them to track a series of metrics for the use of the course and profitability. Specifically, this will allow them to track season pass usage to determine a more appropriate pricing structure. While the many season pass holders play 200 to 2500 times a year, resulting in a cost per use of \$3 or less, there are many other season pass holders that play much more infrequently and balance out the reduced cost of the passes. After 2013, they will be able to see if this balances out or if rates need adjusted.

If season passes are not profitable, they may consider a punch pass.

They raised prices for both courses for 2013.

They are already concerned about 2013 profitability. The weather has been cold, and there has been little pay in March. They had many playable days in March in 2012.

The driving range for Rea Park had revenue of \$57,000 last year. This amount was double 2011 because the range by the mall closed.

Last year, Rea did not have a golf cart lease. This saved them \$40-45,000.



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APPENDIX B: PARKS STAFF & BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

In addition to having good spring conditions in 2012, the combination of \$20-25,000 more revenue for the Rea driving range and the \$40-45,000 in cart fees contributed to \$60-70,000 more revenue than 2011. This is one of the reasons it was profitable in 2012, and one of the reasons it may be tough to continue the profit in 2013.

They increased range ball prices for 2013 at Rae.

Dave believes the maintenance payroll is too high for Hulman. He recommended full time people with benefits need to be phased out and replaced with seasonal employees.

Dave had 3 other salaried people in golf operations a few years ago. He is the only remaining salaried position in golf operations.

1:00 pm- Rita

Rita noted that the trails are a wonderful addition to the parks department.

We discussed "Why Terre Haute?". In addition to schools, the trails and parks are often cited as the very positive things about the City. We need to continue to invest in the parks to keep this as an asset.

The City still needs a Bark Park. This was proposed at Fairbanks Park at the gas company property years ago. The gas company is still cleaning up the site, and has never been able to get clearance to turn it over. Recently, another issue has delayed final clean up. It is hoped that this will be done for 2013 or 2014.

We discussed how closing of the pool impacts the Sheridan park neighborhood. It could be a few years before the impact is known.

The pool at Deming Park has to be shut down several times over the summer for maintenance and repairs. A long term aquatics solution needs determined.

The Frisbee golf course is now very popular, and was recently expanded.

The addition of Bruce as recreation director has allowed the community to get several things done.

We discussed that you need to invest in your strengths to keep them as an asset. This is especially true for Parks.

Rita believed that the Parks Department was hit harder than any other department by the budget cuts. The Parks Department must fight hard to re-establish their budget.

Much work is needed at the shelters. Several are in very poor condition and need replaced. The cost of the work on shelters will be very expensive.

Rita noted that the parks are often too willing to take gifts. Whether a shelter or trees or other item, the parks department takes on significant maintenance with every gift. They emphasized the need to receive maintenance funds with significant gifts.

We discussed that the direction of this plan is really to protect what you have. This was the same theme as the last plan. We discussed that the parks really needs to identify something in this plan to move the department forward.

APPENDIX B: PARKS STAFF & BOARD MEMBER INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Just because funds are tight does not mean the department should stagnate. It was suggested that we identify 2-3 things that we should fight for in this plan. This could be smaller (splash pads, railroad expansion, dog park) or it could be bigger (aquatics).

The idea has been discussed to renovate the Fairbanks Park fountain and make it into a splash pad.

The north end of Fairbanks park continues to have a seedy reputation. They need more lights in that area, and an attraction to deter inappropriate behavior.

The parks does not have a direct role in the Riverfront Plan. However, we should reference it in our plan.

They are adding more art to Fairbanks Park. The next installation will be "water marks".

The Dresser home being renovated and sidewalks added, in Fairbanks Park.

2:00 pm- Nature Center and NAM: Carissa and Jane

The two groups work together for school groups. Otherwise, the two facilities are independent.

Nature Center

- Carissa noted that the building is closed at the moment because they don't have staff.
- They do have part time help for 4 hours/day. This is not enough time to get everything fed and tanks cleaned. And, they don't feed everything every day.
- They now have 19 tanks to take care of.
- For school groups, they generally get 60 kids divided into 3 different groups for 1.5 hours. With two people and an assistant, it takes everyone to oversee a field trip.
- There was a full time assistant previously. It would be ideal to have that again.
- While they would love to see an expansion, it is not essential. However, storage is a problem. She is currently thinning some stuff out.
- They noted the need for additional maintenance for the building. Being located near the forest, they have had problems with snakes, mice and chipmunks getting into the building. It also needs painted again.
- They added an amphitheater 2 years ago.

Native American Museum

- They don't have any part time staff. They will add part time help during school trip season.
- The building is approaching 20 years old. They are starting to see the need for maintenance.
- There are several drainage issues at the site.
- They often get scout groups and volunteers that will do maintenance projects for them. They would like to have mulch and other supplies on hand for them to use.
- They are working on trail signage.

They have some security concerns as they have been broken into in the past.

They want to add some speed bumps. Paving is also needed.

They are concerned about parking being on the opposite side of the road as shelters. They have too many kids dart across the drive.



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APPENDIX C: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Master Plan Parks Survey
 Response Status: Partial & Completed
 Filter: None
 Feb 28, 2013 11:04:52 AM

1. What is your gender?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Male	91	47.3%
Female	99	51.5%
No Responses	2	1.0%
Total	192	100%

2. What is your zip code?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
47801	0	0.0%
47802	56	29.1%
47803	68	35.4%
47804	18	9.3%
47805	20	10.4%
47807	7	3.6%
47808	0	0.0%
Other	23	11.9%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	192	100%

3. Check all of the age ranges that apply to those that live in your household.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Newborn - 5 years old	37	19.2%
6 - 9 years old	27	14.0%
10 - 15 years old	33	17.1%
16 - 20 years old	20	10.4%
21 - 29 years old	35	18.2%
30 - 39 years old	64	33.3%
40 - 49 years old	51	26.5%
50 - 59 years old	58	30.2%
60 - 69 years old	46	23.9%
70 - 79 years old	11	5.7%
80 - 89 years old	4	2.0%
90 - 99 years old	0	0.0%
100 +	0	0.0%
Total	192	100%

4. Have you ever utilized the Terre Haute Parks before?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	190	98.9%
No	0	0.0%
Maybe	1	<1%
No Responses	1	<1%
Total	192	100%

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APPENDIX C: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

5. If yes, which parks have you used? Please check all that apply.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Deming Park	189	98.4%
Dobbs Park	163	84.8%
Fairbanks Park	164	85.4%
Curtis Gilbert Park	20	10.4%
Collett Park	130	67.7%
Hulman Links Golf Course	60	26.0%
William S. Rea Park Golf Course	62	32.2%
Brittlebank Park	32	16.6%
Coy Park	7	3.6%
Hertz-Rose Park	6	2.6%
Sheridan Park	27	14.0%
Spencer F. Ball Park	34	17.7%
Voorhees Park	59	30.7%
National Road Heritage Trail	107	55.7%
Anaconda Park	3	1.5%
Graham Park	2	1.0%
Oakley Park	10	5.2%
Centennial Park	3	1.5%
Maple Avenue Nature Park	32	16.6%
Thompson Park	11	6.7%
Total	192	100%

6. What activities/services do you use and/or participate in while visiting the parks?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Restrooms	157	82.1%
Shelters	154	80.6%
Concessions	61	31.9%
Amphitheater	53	27.7%
Golf Course Club House	46	24.0%
Rental Room	37	19.3%
Playgrounds	126	65.9%
Disc Golf	39	20.4%
Fishing	66	29.3%
Skate Park	10	5.2%
Swimming Pool	71	37.1%
Softball/Baseball	30	15.7%
Soccer	12	6.2%
Tennis/Pickleball	37	19.3%
Basketball	30	15.7%
Horseshoes	12	6.2%
Volleyball	8	4.1%
Historic Features	67	35.0%
Nature Trails	147	76.9%
Golf	39	20.4%
Other	29	15.1%
Total	191	100%

7. What activities and/or services, not listed above, would you have a future interest in participating in at the parks?

73 Response(s)

8. How Important are parks and recreation to your quality of life?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Very important	137	71.3%
Somewhat important	51	26.5%
Somewhat unimportant	3	1.5%
Not at all important	1	<1%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	192	100%



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APPENDIX C: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

9. During the year, the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department provides classes and events. Please check the classes and events listed below that you participate in at this time.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Dobbs Park Nature Center Programs	70	41.1%
Park Board Meetings	9	5.2%
Dobbs Park Native American Museum Programs	48	28.2%
Disc Golf Tournament	7	4.1%
Pictures with the Easter Bunny or Easter Egg Hunt for Children	24	14.1%
Annual Banks of the Wabash Valley Festival	86	50.5%
Kids' Fishing Rodeo	15	8.8%
Terre Haute Community Band Concert	53	31.1%
Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks	93	54.7%
Terre Haute Police Department's National Night Out	64	37.8%
Haunted or Un-Haunted Halloween Happenings	52	30.5%
Old Fashion Day and Art Too	27	15.8%
Christmas in the Park Lights or Pictures with Santa	135	79.4%
Pottery Classes	7	4.1%
Summer Camp	4	2.3%
Spirit of Terre Haute Miniature Train Rides	69	40.5%
Buffalo Chip Throwing Contest	5	2.9%
Adult Softball	14	8.2%
Swim Lessons	2	1.1%
Men of Note Concert	4	2.3%
Other	8	4.7%
Total	170	100%

10. Of the programs, classes, and events previously listed, please select all that you would have a future interest in participating in.

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Dobbs Park Nature Center Programs	112	67.0%
Park Board Meetings	23	13.7%
Dobbs Park Native American Museum Programs	69	41.3%
Disc Golf Tournament	23	13.7%
Pictures with the Easter Bunny or Easter Egg Hunt for Children	37	22.1%
Annual Banks of the Wabash Valley Festival	83	49.7%
Kids' Fishing Rodeo	34	20.3%
Terre Haute Community Band Concert	69	41.3%
Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks	97	58.0%
Terre Haute Police Department's National Night Out	61	36.5%
Haunted or Un-Haunted Halloween Happenings	63	37.7%
Christmas in the Park Lights or Pictures with Santa	114	68.2%
Pottery Classes	54	32.3%
Summer Camp	23	13.7%
Spirit of Terre Haute Miniature Train Rides	65	38.9%
Buffalo Chip Throwing Contest	8	4.7%
Adult Softball	29	17.3%
Swim Lessons	22	13.1%
Men of Note Concert	16	9.5%
Old Fashion Day and Art Too	51	30.5%
Total	167	100%

11. What programs, events, and/or classes would you like to see the parks offer that are not listed above?

51 Response(s)

12. How often do you visit the parks?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Once a year	5	2.6%
Quarterly	18	9.3%
Monthly	61	31.7%
Bi-weekly	31	16.1%
Weekly	60	31.2%
Daily	17	8.6%
No Responses	0	0.0%
Total	192	100%

appendices

APPENDIX C: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

13. How satisfied are you with the current programs and/or activities currently provided by the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Very Satisfied	79	41.1%
Somewhat Satisfied	100	52.0%
Somewhat Dissatisfied	10	5.2%
Very Dissatisfied	1	<1%
No Responses	2	1.0%
Total	192	100%

14. Would you like more information about the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation and/or services we offer?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes	103	53.6%
No	79	41.1%
No Responses	10	5.2%
Total	192	100%

15. Would you have an interest in donating any of the following?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Time	72	41.3%
Monetary Contribution	18	10.3%
Resources such as lumber, tools, maintenance equipment or greenery (trees)	10	6.7%
I do not have an interest in any of the above	94	54.0%
Total	174	100%

16. How should funds be raised for financing NEW recreational programs and facilities?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
User fees/Gate Admissions	37	20.1%
Property Tax Levy	44	23.9%
Local Sales Tax	47	25.5%
Fundraising (grants, private donations, business sponsorships)	162	88.0%
Other	11	5.0%
Total	184	100%

17. What is the best way to get information about events and/or activities that the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department is offering?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Cable Television	61	32.4%
Direct Mail	30	15.9%
Email such as an eBlast, eGram or eNewsletter	102	54.2%
Fliers	27	14.3%
Network Television	64	34.0%
Newspaper	87	46.2%
Radio	79	42.0%
Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube	110	58.5%
Website	73	38.8%
Other	9	4.7%
Total	188	100%

18. Which television stations do you watch the most?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Cable Stations (for example USA, TNT, Discovery, Lifetime, ESPN)	45	23.4%
Network Stations (for example ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX)	124	64.6%
I do not watch cable or network television	18	9.3%
No Responses	6	2.6%
Total	192	100%



appendices

APPENDIX C: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

19. What radio station do you listen to the most?

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
99.9	36	20.0%
88.5	35	19.4%
92.7	21	11.6%
100.7	37	20.5%
105.5	32	17.7%
95.9	25	13.8%
102.7	30	16.6%
104.9	11	6.1%
98.5	11	6.1%
AM 1300	2	1.1%
Satellite	12	6.6%
Other	30	16.6%
Total	180	100%

20. If a foundation was established by the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department to assist with offsetting long-term planning, sustaining and future growth expenses, would you...

	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Support	69	35.9%
Not support	1	<1%
Need more information before making a decision	116	60.4%
No Responses	6	3.1%
Total	192	100%

21. Please provide your name and email address. Your email address will be added to our list of contacts to receive newsletters about upcoming activities and events.

First Name	143
Last Name	142
Email Address	143

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: Master Plan Parks Survey
Response Status: Partial & Completed
Filter: None
Feb 28, 2013 11:04:52 AM

2. What is your zip code? - Other responses

Answer
47870
47874
47885
47842
47885
47870
47885
47874
presently in Belgium
47885
48828
47834
47809
47872
47885
47885
47834
47876
47885
47834
47858
47885
47885

6. What activities/services do you use and/or participate in while visiting the parks? - Other

Answer
Pottery Classes
Running on the trail
Biking
bike riding
walking
Native American Museum
nature center
bicycle paths
Bicycling
Bike Trails
Nature Center at Dobbs Park
nature center, native american museum
running/walking/ dog walking
Pottery
Heritage Road Trail (on bicycles)
kayaking, canoeing
Running

Bicycling
grass/trees
running
Biking/Running
Christmas displays, running events, etc.
Walking trails
played football on grass, dobbs museum, large grassy areas, feed ducks
running/biking
Entire trail greenway system
Tai Chi
classes
hiking the trails

7. What activities and/or services, not listed above, would you have a future interest in participating

Answer
a splash park/water play feature
Increased utilization of the Wabash River at Fairbanks Park
ice rink
Baseball/softball fields?
Dead walking and nature trails through woods
Camping, concerts
splash pad
More Craft and art classes
None really we have beautiful parks here in TH
I would LOVE to have a dog park!
water park. We get calls every summer in our office saying we need a water park in TH. The one in Plainfield is awesome. Also I wonder if there is an area where water could be sprayed for ice skating. It doesn't seem that our ponds get very frozen over with a typical winter. I have read where other towns have the fire dept spray water 2 skate
geocaching, tai chi (indoor & outdoor)
none
More bike trails to and from parks and around the city
Adult Flag Football
More activities for teenagers (13-18), possibly concerts in Fairbanks or Deming Park, such as Contemporary Christian music groups.
ice skating
A dog park
Sledding at demming park
Large splash pad in the summer, indoor waterpark, indoor playground
Bicycling should be listed.
Why is pickleball listed with tennis. They are a separate sport and not connected.
walking
How about offering horseback riding (perhaps at Dobbs Park) like they do have in the past at Shakamak? My son really enjoyed that when he was little, as did I.
ice skating, winter concessions
N/A
suitable power chairs available at the park for the elderly and handicapped to use. Even a rental per hour if needed. Or golf carts for the handicapped.
I am Native American myself and I follow a lot of the old ways. We enjoy going to the museum and looking in to see what has changed. We encourage our young ones to participate in the activities the museum and nature center offer.... I would like to see pow wows and gatherings come to the parks
Dog Park

appendices

APPENDIX C: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

<p>Splash park</p> <p>Ice skating/ice skate rental, cross country ski rental, bike/run/walk trail on the south side of town, canoe rental, more trails larger trail system</p> <p>Learning activities (i.e. Pottery, gardening, etc)</p> <p>Festivals</p> <p>Better soccer facilities.</p> <p>Continuation of trails</p> <p>Senior walk paths with rest benches. Bike paths with no bump pads like in roadway. I cannot ride my 3 wheel bike over those bumps</p> <p>water park like Plainfield</p> <p>Cross Country Skiing</p> <p>Disc Golf</p> <p>group activities, running, walking, dog friendly, bicycling groups</p> <p>water aerobics classes, outdoor fitness classes</p> <p>dog park in Vigo county</p> <p>Nature Center and Native American Museum at Dobbs.</p> <p>More running and walking trails</p> <p>Gardening. I am starting a vegetable garden this year and I know the process will be difficult. Have master gardeners plot out a community garden, offer classes where participants provide the labor in turn for the education, and the food could be donated to local food banks and charitable needs.</p> <p>Cross country skiing</p> <p>classes</p> <p>Softball/Basball</p> <p>na</p> <p>walking, running and biking</p> <p>Family and pet-friendly ones</p> <p>Ultimate frisbee</p> <p>Bike paths</p> <p>ice skating</p> <p>Running</p> <p>Quiet place to read or just relax</p> <p>dog park</p> <p>New trails...but I do appreciate the diligent efforts to improve the parks...especially all of the beautification at Deming...the new asphalt paths...the clearing of trees and brush...the constant upkeep and care...all is appreciated. The area on the other side of the lake has become quite water logged and muddy after the clearing.</p> <p>I think more Biking/Running friendly trails. The heritage trail has been the best addition to the parks systems. More of these Bikes to trails would be awesome. Especially in the Southern part of the city.</p> <p>Family exercise programs that parents and kids could do together.</p> <p>More skate parks</p> <p>Listen to live music, fly a kite, see other live shows (magic/comedy), games/activities specifically geared toward those with special needs during the work day (8-4). Sensory intense activities (lights/textures/balloons/bubbles/music)</p> <p>Terre Haute needs a good mountain bike trail a concert venue outside and camping that is free of smelt and transients</p> <p>Walking and working out</p> <p>Boat rental, another disc golf course, concessions, water park,</p> <p>It would be great to have a bike/jogging path separate from cars at Deming</p> <p>DOG PARK</p> <p>Paved trails/roads (for biking/walking), grass lots for games</p> <p>Nature trails for bird watching</p> <p>enjoying the park in a smoke free environment</p> <p>Outdoor fitness trail with stations. A dog park would be great.</p> <p>Please consider creating a running path alongside the street in Deming park so that runners and walkers do not have to share the road with drivers.</p> <p>more historic monument's and artifacts about our city parks.</p> <p>Out door concerts</p> <p>Dobbs Park Nature Center, more trails.</p> <p>Tai Chi</p> <p>diversity fair</p> <p>outdoor basketball</p>	<p>A beginners running group-all ages so families can run together.</p> <p>Dog park activities</p> <p>Yoga in the park</p> <p>None</p> <p>Gardening classes, for both vegetables as well as flowers.</p> <p>Cross country ski rentals</p> <p>Art classes for preschool. Can't find anything for my 4 1/2 year old granddaughter.</p> <p>skateboard lessons, art projects, running/walking exercise clubs</p> <p>na</p> <p>horseback riding lessons for kids</p> <p>Music under the stars, outdoor plays/theater</p> <p>Adult Soccer</p> <p>Would like to see Maple Park trail cleared of snow/ice to make a good winter walking path. The length of that path is good for kids (ages 4 & 7). We still like to get out and walk even on colder days but it's hard to find a safe non-icy walking place.</p> <p>Focus a little more on your golf courses...</p> <p>running club</p> <p>Activities geared for special needs adults during the work week. Easter egg hunt but for those in wheelchairs/walkers. Sports for special needs. Sensory intense activities (things that engage eyes/hears/touch/smell) perhaps a "smell the flowers" in the spring!</p> <p>More outdoor related activities, survival groups, outdoor music performances</p> <p>I would like to see a web page for golf events that take place at Rea Park or Hulman Links golf courses. I would also like to see the city realize how bad Hulman Links was last year. Golf courses cannot survive without water. A constant water source must be found to ensure that Hulman Links will provide revenue for the city.</p> <p>Out door Tai chi out door yoga</p> <p>The Tough A Truck show at Fairbanks that used to be there. More events for adults too.</p> <p>final tee golf - nationwide event to get kids involved in golf</p> <p>YOUTH GOLF</p> <p>Yoga</p> <p>volleyball</p> <p>more art in the park opportunities in all the parks</p> <p>Though the survey does not specifically ask, the two aspects of the parks that our family would most like to see given even more attention are the cleanliness / functionality of the restrooms and the removal of graffiti. Thank you very much.</p> <p>Please consider creating a running path alongside the street in Deming park so that runners and walkers do not have to share the road with drivers.</p> <p>more programs for kids.</p> <p>Would it be possible to offer a run/walk classes to promote fitness?</p> <p>Tai Chi classes or fitness classes</p> <p>Photography</p> <p>Crafts, invasive plant, movies in the park, concerts in the park, plays</p> <p>Pickleball tournaments, Pickleball lessons, Triathlons</p>
<p>9. During the year, the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department provides classes and events.</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Park Yard sales at Deming</p> <p>Bat Festival</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Cannot ride the train, but want to tell you that you've done a great job with it</p> <p>Running Events</p> <p>Golf tournaments</p> <p>Biking</p> <p>zzzzzzzz</p>	<p>16. How should funds be raised for financing NEW recreational programs and facilities? - Other</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>paid events such as fishing tournaments and golf outings</p> <p>sell Hulman Links</p> <p>more contests like adult egg hunt or pet contest</p> <p>Higher fees on pools, shelter rental, etc.</p> <p>special events</p>
<p>11. What programs, events, and/or classes would you like to see the parks offer that are not listed</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>Pottery classes for TEENS</p> <p>Yoga, plates, gardening, kids sports</p> <p>more fishing tournaments</p> <p>Movie in the park was a nice event for families. I have a first hand in the cost of this event and it can cost only the amount of movie rental, if the supervisors who are in salary work the event. It takes one person to set up and run!</p> <p>Arts and Crafts, i.e., jewelry, sewing, photography.</p> <p>More dog events.</p> <p>exercise classes at Turner center in Deming Park during the summer mornings</p> <p>Adult Flag Football</p> <p>Teen swimmer camps</p> <p>Expanded access to trails for running/cycling/walking</p> <p>Soap Box Derby. Two events. One for adults and one for children. Insurance denial form. Non sue if hurt clause!!</p> <p>Walking races.</p> <p>Fundraiser events</p> <p>Terre Haute is in desperate need of a public dog park! It would also be nice to see additional art classes or gardening classes available.</p> <p>Dive-In Movie Night</p> <p>How about a program for teens? Perhaps being summer camp volunteers to help with the smaller kids or having some kind of program unique for them?</p> <p>identification of different plants, trees, and wildlife.</p> <p>I listed them above...I am the leader and founder of the West Central Indiana All Nations Council.</p> <p>My husband would like to see more disc golf courses and tournaments</p> <p>rowing, sailing</p> <p>bicycle safety class's for Adults and children PLEASE</p> <p>Art classes for children/teens. Teens especially!!</p> <p>Fitness/yoga classes</p>	<p>17. What is the best way to get information about events and/or activities that the Terre Haute Parks</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>a combination of all aboveplus maybe a public on street show</p> <p>park signs</p> <p>flyers at hospitals, schools, gyms, coffee house</p> <p>Definitely not websites, I can't stand to navigate our city/county websites</p> <p>word of mouth</p> <p>Billboards</p> <p>The calendar that post events... Nothing changes from year to year</p> <p>you need a web page for kids and adults</p> <p>Word of mouth at gatherings announcement of future events</p>
<p>19. What radio station do you listen to the most? - Other responses</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>95.1</p> <p>88.7 WISU</p> <p>KEXP</p> <p>105.5</p> <p>WBOI</p> <p>91.9</p> <p>95.1</p> <p>rarely listen to radio</p> <p>92.3</p> <p>95.1</p> <p>None</p> <p>105.9</p> <p>oas/network.org</p> <p>NPR out of Bloomington 95.1 (I believe)</p> <p>89.7</p> <p>ISU don't know numbers</p> <p>95.1</p> <p>95.5</p> <p>95.1 - NPR in Bloomington</p> <p>105.9</p> <p>95.1</p> <p>AM 550</p> <p>AM 1130</p> <p>95.1</p> <p>95.1 (NPR)</p> <p>Online</p> <p>WFIU, WISU</p> <p>95.1 WFIU</p> <p>94.9</p> <p>104.3, 89.7</p>	



Article from the Tribune Star. February 9th, 2013.

2/9/13
**Officials
consider
water park
for revenue**

**Tightening budget has
parks department looking
to increase funds**

By BRIAN M. BOYCE
TRIBUNE STAR

Money is tight and getting tighter, but supporters of the city's parks say those properties remain a high priority.

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department hosted an open forum for stakeholders Friday inside the Turner Center at Downing Park.

The department will conduct a public hearing from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Collett Park Pavilion for continued discussion about its 5-year Master Plan, which must be established as part of state grant requirements.

About 20 participants from a variety of organizations discussed priorities pertaining to local parks in light of what superintendent Eddie Bird described as a tough fiscal environment.

Pointing out that the parks budget has been slashed by \$1 million since 2008, Bird said donations and sponsorships remain a priority if programming is to be maintained.

City Councilman Norm Loudermilk (D-3rd) got straight to the point later in the session as discussions remained focused on sponsorships and funding.

"Are there plans in the works to sell the golf courses?" he asked Bird.

"Not at this time," Bird said, explaining that the covenants involved in the land donated for both Rea Park and Hulman Links precludes such a move.

► Turn to PARKS, A4

**Parks: Loudermilk
touts 'big idea' plan**

► Continued from A1

Furthermore, he said the golf courses are a big draw, generating as much as \$200,000 a year for local charities through scrambles and fundraisers. That has to be factored into the discussion when questioning the overall cost, he said.

Loudermilk expressed his strong support for the parks, and said statistics show crime rates increase when parks are closed, but fall when they're opened. That benefit comes on top of the quality of life offered and accidents they prevent as in the example of offering swimming pools instead of kids using strip pills, he said.

"The parks department is not meant to make a profit. It provides a service," Loudermilk said, emphasizing his hope that the group takes a "big idea" approach to a revenue-generating project such as a water park. "I think that would really put us on the map."

The idea of a water park or aquatic center came up throughout the meeting, with Loudermilk noting that area residents presently drive all the way to one in Plainfield.

Bruce Rosselli, parks department director of recreation, pointed out that the water park in Plainfield came with a multi-million dollar bond for its home department. Growing such programs and developing the associated facilities will

require fundraising, he said.

"One of the things we're trying to do is brand those with sponsors," he said, encouraging participants to become "advocates for the parks" and help talk up the facilities when fundraising.

Pat Martin, of the city's engineering department, said the idea of developing a large-scale water attraction is doable.

"I think there's enough people, enough momentum and enough mass to support an aquatic center," he said.

Martin also remarked that potential cost-cutting measures might include a reduction in mowing. The use of native grasses or wildflowers could save the department's fuel budget, he said.

Terry Tevlin of First Financial Bank was among multiple participants who said the current budget crunch, while very real, will ultimately pass. Saving the parks is a priority, he said.

"Budget cuts are the reality. We're living in a different world in 2013," he said, warning that the county's recent drop in terms of reassessment values will have significant implications over the coming years. But in the long run, the city should consider the value of what is has here. "This is our crown jewel," he said of the parks system.

Brian Boyce can be reached at 812-231-4253 or brian.boyce@tribstar.com.

appendices

APPENDIX D: PRESS COVERAGE & PRESS RELEASES

WTWO –Web Article

Parks Department Seeks Community Input

breaking news

Parks Department Seeks Community Input

By: Morgan Moore

Updated: February 12, 2013

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department is preparing for the next five years and wants input from you.

The department hosted an open house for residents to talk about a master plan and ways to improve local parks.

They showed off plans to expand the train tracks in Deming Park, and to possibly add a pool or splash pad area for kids.

Officials say it's important to hear from the community about what they want to see in the parks.

"It's easy to say that this is what I'd like to have as a program, I'd like to do this or it like to do that, but wasn't going to cost us and will the public be willing to help support that or will there be someone out there willing to sponsor a programs and that's her it's important to have the public's opinion," said Bruce Rosselli, of the Parks and Recreation Department.

You can still voice your opinion about what you want to see happen in the city parks click [here](#).

http://mywabashvalley.com/fulltext/?nxd_id=293352

WTWO – Web Article

Parks and Rec Department Works on Master Plan

breaking news

Parks and Rec Department Works on Master Plan

By: Morgan Moore

Updated: February 8, 2013

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department is preparing for the next five years.

Officials from across the community came together to talk about a master plan and ways to improve local parks.

An expansion of the train tracks in Deming Park is already underway with the help of students from Rose-Hulman.

Organizers are also considering adding a pool or splash pad area for kids.

Experts hope reaching out to residents will help make the parks the best they can be.

"We are gaining advice from the outside community versus just our own ideas," said Bruce Roselli, director of recreation. "Some type of structure to go forward and we can set goals. If we want to put in this particular bark park or we want to add to our pools we've got an idea of how we can do that, but also we can maybe gain resources from outside people to be advocates."

You can also share your opinions about what should happen with the city parks.

There will be a public meeting next Tuesday from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the Collett Park Pavilion.

http://mywabashvalley.com/fulltext/?nxd_id=292652

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APPENDIX D: PRESS COVERAGE & PRESS RELEASES

Tribune Star – Web Article

TH parks department looking to share ideas on five-year master plan » News From Terre ... Page 1 of 1

News From Terre Haute, Indiana

January 29, 2013

TH parks department looking to share ideas on five-year master plan

Staff Report

The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — The Terre Haute Parks & Recreation Department is planning a meeting with invited stakeholders from the surrounding community. This meeting is designed to share ideas for a five-year parks master plan.

“With ideas from area business owners, contractors and park enthusiasts, we can get a better perspective of where we want to focus or prioritize our improvements and how best to go about completing these tasks,” said Eddie Bird, park superintendent.

Park board members, park staff and invited stakeholders will meet at noon Feb. 8 at the Torner Center in Deming Park.

Members of the public also will have the opportunity to offer their opinions. A public meeting has been set for 4-6 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Collett Park Pavilion.

Those who cannot attend the public meeting but who wish to give input can do so through an online survey posted on the city’s website, www.terre

haute.in.gov. Click on “Parks Survey” under the “News” column. Opinions also can be left on the Parks Department’s Facebook page.

<http://tribstar.com/local/x1633466032/TH-parks-department-looking-to-share-ideas-on-five-year-master-plan>

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APPENDIX D: PRESS COVERAGE & PRESS RELEASES

Tribune Star – Web Article

Terre Haute Parks Department seeking public input » News From Terre Haute, Indiana

Page 1 of 1

News From Terre Haute, Indiana

June 2, 2010

Terre Haute Parks Department seeking public input

Special to the Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department wants public input about its facilities, activities and services, so it's asking citizens to complete a survey that will have an impact on the community in the months and weeks to come.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Eddie Bird explained, "The survey will provide us with information to better serve the Terre Haute community throughout the park system and will help us promote our activities, programs and events in the future."

The survey can be accessed online at www.terrehaute.in.gov. For those without Internet access, paper copies of the survey are available at the Park Office in Fairbanks Park, at Torner Center in Deming Park and at the Nature Center and Native American Museum in Dobbs Park.

The department owns more than a thousand acres of dedicated land including four community parks, 10 neighborhood parks, nine block parks, and greenways and boulevards throughout the city. In addition, it maintains two municipal golf courses, Dobbs Park Nature Center, the Native American Museum, and two recreation centers.

"We're encouraging any individual who uses the Terre Haute parks to complete the survey, whether they live in the city or outside of it," Bird said. "The feedback will help us better serve the community with programming, activities, events and classes."

In addition, Bird said the survey will help the department build a database of people who use the parks and the specific activities they enjoy. "With the contact information we collect, we can more easily notify people when those activities are scheduled," he said. "This will help people plan accordingly and reduce the cost for the department to communicate with its patrons."

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete, Bird said. Persons who complete the survey and provide their contact information will be eligible to win one of 10 \$100 Walmart gift cards sponsored by First Financial Corp. and Walmart.

<http://tribstar.com/news/x93700186/Terre-Haute-Parks-Department-seeking-public-input/print>



HWC
ENGINEERING

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APPENDIX D: PRESS COVERAGE & PRESS RELEASES

WTHI – Web Article

Parks department seeking user input through survey

Updated: Wednesday, 23 Jun 2010, 4:25 PM EDT
Published : Tuesday, 01 Jun 2010, 12:26 PM EDT

The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department wants your input about its facilities, activities and services, so it's asking every citizen to complete a survey that will have an impact on the community in the months and weeks to come.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Eddie Bird explained, "The survey will provide us with information to better serve the Terre Haute community throughout the park system and will help us promote our activities, programs and events in the future."

The survey can be accessed online at www.terrehaute.in.gov. For those without Internet access, paper copies of the survey are available at the Park Office in Fairbanks Park, at Tomer Center in Deming Park, and at the Nature Center and Native American Museum in Dobbs Park.

The department owns more than a thousand acres of dedicated land including four community parks, 10 neighborhood parks, nine block parks, and greenways and boulevards throughout the city. In addition, it maintains two municipal golf courses, Dobbs Park Nature Center, the Native American Museum, and two recreation centers.

"We're encouraging any individual who uses the Terre Haute parks to complete the survey, whether they live in the city or outside of it," Bird said. "The feedback will help us better serve the community with programming, activities, events and classes."

In addition, Bird said the survey will help the department build a database of people who use the parks and the specific activities they enjoy. "With the contact information we collect, we can more easily notify people when those activities are scheduled," he said. "This will help people plan accordingly and reduce the cost for the department to communicate with its patrons."

The survey takes only a few minutes to complete, Bird said. Persons who complete the survey and provide their contact information will be eligible to win one of ten \$100 Walmart gift cards sponsored by First Financial Corporation and Walmart.

<http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/local/parks-department-seeking-user-input-through-survey>

Advertisement



Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department Facebook Page Screenshot

Parks Department Survey

Search for people, places and things



Parks Department Survey

by Terre Haute Parks & Recreation (Notes) on Friday, June 17, 2011 at 2:07pm

Get Notes via RSS

Report

The Terre Haute Parks Department would like to extend a Thank You to all community members who have participated in the Parks Department Survey. The information gathered through these surveys will help provide the department with helpful information on park usage, types of classes offered, different advertising methods and information about the many events the department provides for the community. We would also like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to our wonderful sponsors, First Financial Bank and Wal-Mart.

Like · Comment · Share

Write a comment...

APPENDIX D: PRESS COVERAGE & PRESS RELEASES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Eddie Bird
Superintendent
Terre Haute Parks and Recreation
(812) 232-2727
Eddie.bird@terrehaute.IN.gov

2014-2018 Terre Haute Parks Plan Available for Comment

October 31, 2013 – The public is invited to review and comment on the latest update to the Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan, which is updated every five years, serves as a guiding tool for decisions impacting Terre Haute's parks. It also helps the City maintain eligibility for Department of Natural Resources grants.

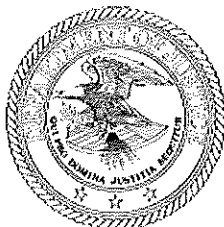
"The plan states that more must be done to improve the City's existing parks facilities in spite of budget challenges," stated Parks Superintendent Eddie Bird. "Our plan calls for action to address deferred maintenance expenses, to invest in golf operations, to develop a long term plan for aging aquatics facilities and to implement a maintenance plan for the trails network."

A presentation on the draft plan will be made at the November 20, 2013 Parks Board Meeting at the Torner Community Center in Deming Park. The public may also review a draft of the plan, which is available at the Parks office at 1110 Girl Scout lane. A copy is also available on the City's website at www.terrehaute.IN.gov/parks. Comments will be taken up through the November 20 Parks Board Meeting.

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appendices

APPENDIX E: ADA PUBLIC NOTICE AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES



NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Terre Haute will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The City of Terre Haute does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The City of Terre Haute will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City of Terre Haute's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The City of Terre Haute will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in City of Terre Haute offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Terre Haute, should contact the office of **Josey Daugherty, ADA Coordinator, 17 Harding Ave., Room 200, Terre Haute, IN 47807, (812) 244-4903**, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the City of Terre Haute to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the City of Terre Haute is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to **Josey Daugherty, ADA Coordinator, 17 Harding Ave., Room 200, Terre Haute, IN 47807, (812) 244-4903**.

The City of Terre Haute will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

APPENDIX E: ADA PUBLIC NOTICE AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

City of Terre Haute Grievance Procedure under The Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of Terre Haute. The City of Terre Haute's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Josey Daugherty
ADA Coordinator
17 Harding Ave., Room 200, Terre Haute, IN 47807
(812) 244-4903

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Josey Daugherty or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, Josey Daugherty or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City of Terre Haute and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Josey Daugherty or his/her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Mayor of the City of Terre Haute or his/her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Mayor of the City of Terre Haute or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Mayor of the City of Terre Haute or his/her designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Josey Daugherty or his/her designee, appeals to the Mayor of the City of Terre Haute or his/her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the City of Terre Haute for at least three years.



appendices

APPENDIX E: ADA PUBLIC NOTICE AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

**ASSURANCE OF ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE WITH:
ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT of 1968 (As Amended);
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (As Amended);
AND TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990
(As Amended)**

The T.H. Park & Recreation Dist. (Applicant) has read the guidelines for compliance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (As Amended); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (As Amended); and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (As Amended) and will comply with the applicable requirements of these Acts.

SIGNATURE Mike Webster
APPLICANT PRESIDENT

MIKE WEBSTER
(President's printed name)

SIGNATURE John L. Wright
JOHN L. WRIGHT
(Secretary's printed name)

DATE 11/20/2013

APPENDIX F: RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLAN

Resolution 17, 2013

A Resolution to approve and adopt the Master Plan 2014-2018 prepared by Hannum, Wagle & Cline.

WHEREAS, the Terre Haute, Park and Recreation Board, has been authorized by City Ordinance to act on behalf of the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board has been made aware of the park and recreational needs of the residents of the City of Terre Haute; and

WHEREAS, the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board realizes the Importance of sound planning in order to promote growth and Development of park and recreational opportunities in Terre Haute

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board has approved the adoption of the Master Plan 2014-2018 prepared by Hannum, Wagle, & Cline.

Passed in open meeting this 20th day of November 2013

By: Mike Webster
Mike Webster, President

By: John Wright
John Wright, Secretary



appendices

APPENDIX G: DNR CERTIFICATION LETTER



Michael R. Pence, Governor
Cameron F. Clark, Director

Division of Outdoor Recreation
402 W. Washington Street W271
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2782
317-232-4070 Fax: 317-233-4648
www.IN.gov/dnr/outdoor

December 11th, 2013

Mike Webster
Park Board President
Terre Haute Park and Recreation Board
1110 Girl Scout Lane
Terre Haute, IN 47807

Dear Mr. Webster,

The DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation planning staff has reviewed the final draft of the 2014-2018 Terre Haute Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan meets the Department of Natural Resources' minimum requirements for local parks and recreation master plans. This letter certifies that your community is now eligible to apply for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grants through this office. A new plan will be due on January 15th, 2019, at which time your current LWCF grant application eligibility will expire.

If you haven't already, we strongly recommend that you contact Mr. Bob Bronson, our grant section chief, as soon as possible about future grant applications. Bob and his staff can assist in your grant application process. He can be reached by phone at: (317) 232-4075 or by e-mail at: bbronson@dnr.IN.gov.

We support your planning efforts and encourage your participation in the grant programs administered by the Division of Outdoor Recreation. If you require further information regarding planning, do not hesitate to call me at: (317) 232-4071 or by e-mail at: gbeilfuss@dnr.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

Greg Beilfuss
State and Community Outdoor Recreation Planner
IDNR Division of Outdoor Recreation

ECC – Kyle Lueken, HWC Eng.